



# Daily Reflections

**February 6, 2019**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 6: 1-6**

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples.

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished.

They said, "Where did this man get all this?

What kind of wisdom has been given him?

What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!

Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon?

And are not his sisters here with us?"

And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them,

"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Prophets are hard-lined conservatives. People, especially those in power, never feel comfortable with the message of the prophets. The status quo is

easy, even comfortable if not at the same time unjust. Prophets are the great disrupters. The humble person "hears and is glad."

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## **Food for your Journey**

Jesus returns to his hometown, is rejected by his family and proclaims, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." Today when prophecy is more associated with sectarian and often destructive religious visionaries, its biblical meaning must be recovered. The term comes from the Greek [for] one who speaks "on behalf of." A prophet speaks on behalf of God, as God's messenger, and on behalf of those who have no one to speak for them, giving a voice to the voiceless (for example, the widow, the orphan, the poor, the stranger in the land). A prophet is not primarily a fore-teller, but a forth-teller, who proclaims with insight the evils that afflict society and can ultimately spell its downfall, as Jeremiah warned against political entanglements that led to the Babylonian exile. Prophets are "radical" in the sense that they reach back into the deepest roots of a religious tradition and summon people to be faithful to them, as the Hebrew prophets evoke the Exile from Egypt and the Sinai covenant.

—John R. Donahue, "You can't go home again, Yeshua." America, July 1 - July 8, 2000, 30

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, You want me to be saved. You sent the prophets to speak to me and Your only Son to show me Your way. Help me, Lord, to change what needs to be changed in my life so that I may live as the person You created me to be. Amen