

Mark 6: 1-6

Jesus left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Commentary: The theme of faith and its connection to healing and transformation is continued in this passage. Jesus has come home and is invited to speak at the local synagogue on the Sabbath. People are astonished, amazed, but most of all, resistant. They cannot get past the man from Nazareth and hear God speaking through him. Jesus doesn't have the credentials in terms of education and social class. Even his own family don't know what to make of him. In response Jesus offers the well know saying: 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' For all his healing and transforming powers Jesus can do little where there is no openness to faith in him.

What is also fascinating is how Jesus' powers of physical healing are so tied to his powers of mental and spiritual/emotional healing and transformation. Everything that makes us human is interconnected. So, how in this season of Covid-19 is our fear for our physical health and well-being and those we care about, affecting our mental and spiritual well-being? And how would faith in the healing power of the divine work the kind of grounding, peace-making and capacity for compassion-building within us that can be healing for the world around us?

Prayer: Healing God... God of transforming power... heal us – spirit, mind, body... heal through us as you healed through Jesus... May we find faith in ourselves and may we meet faith in others to encourage us...May we also be given the gift of faith in one another... May the Spirit of the risen Christ find open hearts for healing to happen in this waiting time of fear and uncertainty... Amen.