

## Third Monday of Lent ~ 3/12

"Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown." (Luke 4:24)

During the Vietnam War there were a lot of families who found themselves torn asunder. The college-age child would come home for the holidays and find that they were at odds with their parents over the war. Parents found that life at the university had changed this otherwise sensible child into a peace activist. The student, full of that first fervor, came home to point out the error of his or her parents' viewpoint. These were not happy times for many families.

It is hard when someone points out to us the error of our way or our thinking. It is more difficult when the person doing the pointing is younger than we are. It is almost impossible when the person is younger and also one of our own. Prophets find that familiarity really does breed contempt.

So what are prophets to do? It seems that they have several choices. They can first try to reach those who they know already. If that doesn't work they can then leave and find people who will listen to them, people that don't carry the baggage of having known the person before he or she became a prophet.

On the other hand, the prophets can start proclaiming God's word in unfamiliar settings where people may at first ask, where did this person come from and why should we believe him or her? These people are at least somewhat open. Then, motivated by success, the prophet could go back home and speak with some proven sense of authority.

The third option would be to keep going back and forth between the familiar and the foreign and hope that eventually when the prophet comes back home that the familiar faces will finally get it. Of course this could be the most disastrous of all options because the prophet is now going to be pulled in all sorts of directions with all kinds of conflicting emotions swirling around.

It would seem that Jesus gave us some pretty good advice about prophecy. It seems that he says it is better to go away from home if you want your message to be accepted. So why didn't He take His own advice? Could it be that a prophet becomes a prophet only when being heard is more important than being accepted?

### *Questions for Reflection*

- 1. Are prophets heard in my church? Why are they rejected?*
- 2. Who listens to me more: the people I have never met before or my family and friends?*