

Fourth Sunday 28/29.1.12

Your God will raise up from you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, to him you must listen...I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him..

Pslm 94 Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us..Harden not your hearts.

Paul to th Corinthians..so that give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Mark likes to give us an insight into the true character of Jesus

Sinful broken people that we are, we are constantly searching for life and knowledge that would save us from a threatening world, to escape from the unpredictable, the uncertainty of our future, to counteract that fateful fear.

Moses was aware of this too, as he assured his wayward people, that the Lord would send another prophet to continue his work, of leading the people to the promised land. He called them to a covenant of love that God would protect them, and promised them a new prophet, but there was never one like Moses..until Jesus appears. We hear in the Gospel that he far surpasses their expectations, he is greater than Moses. He is their brother, and greater than their leaders, because he speaks and acts with authority. They begin to see God in him, just as Moses saw the face of God, and the people had to hide themselves from him because his face dazzled them, and he had to cover his face so that

they would not be frightened of him. So Jesus frightens off the evil spirits, such that they shout at him, and the people are amazed. Jesus does not want this intimacy he has with God to be the message that people spread about him. He wants his message to be reasonable and understandable by the people. His teaching made a deep impression upon them, unlike the scribes because he taught with authority.

They wanted a message from the heart and the mind, the spirit would set them free, a spirit that would bind up broken hearts and calm those evil thoughts which can so easily destroy peace of mind. He had come to mend broken lives, they longed for not the language of power and strength, but the gentle breeze. They longed for words that instinctively appealed to their broken lives, which would promise hope and redemption. They felt acknowledged by the divine, given assurance that Jesus understood them. They began to see in him the saving presence, as the unclean spirits obeyed him.

Today there are many false prophets about, they promise salvation through health and beauty, prosperity and celebrity. The list is endless and disappointing, and yet we continue to give ourselves up to false hopes and dreams. Today we acknowledge Jesus, embracing in him the promise made through Moses. The power to change broken lives, he alone heals broken lives. Every other hope is sorcery by another name.

(Thanks to CH +McG)