

February 5, 2025

Daily Reflections



LISTEN!

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Gospel

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.

MARK 6:1-6

Reflection

Whenever I read this passage from Mark's gospel, I reflect on whether or not I neglect the gifts others have to offer simply because of where they come from. Jesus was in his hometown and as noted in this passage, they "took offense" at him – basically saying, "Who does he think he is?"

I was in a training program with my congregation on how to improve our communication. One of the tenets of the program (C.A.R.E.) was to "listen as if for the first time." I remember Mark's passage came to mind when I heard this because the people of Jesus' hometown thought they knew him, and they didn't listen to Jesus. This tenet in C.A.R.E. cautioned us not to think we know what another person is going to say before they even open their mouth to speak; rather, to listen and take in their words without judgment or critique. I find this sage advice as I know I don't want folks to assume they know what I'm about to say before I say it, and I don't want to do this to others. There are prophets among us, and I don't want to miss their wisdom because I'm too busy assuming I know what they will say!

Listen!

Incline your ear and hear my words, and let your mind attend to my teaching.

PROVERBS 22:17

*To my words be attentive, to my sayings incline your ear; let them not slip from your sight,
keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them,
bringing health to one's whole being.*

PROVERBS 4:20-22

*Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and oppressed.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted;
save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; be gracious to me,
Lord; to you I call all the day.*

PSALM 86: 1-3

Pay attention and come to me; listen, that you may have life. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, the steadfast loyalty promised to David.

ISAIAH 55:3



Rome - Sant' Angelo

Photo by Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- From the reading or the quotes from scripture above, what speaks to you this day? Why?
 - When you reflect on your own ability to listen, how do you “Listen as if for the first time”? How does this make sense to you?
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For Prayer

*O God,
throughout scripture you urge us to listen.
We pray for the grace to listen to you in scripture
and to those we meet who might have a message we need to hear.
Let us be open to your wisdom coming from people or places we least expect!
Amen.*

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