

JULY 5, 2015



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EZEKIEL 2:2-5

PSALM 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

MARK 6:1-6A

REFLECTION

Having a tough day? Our prophets and preachers can relate. Ezekiel is rejected by Israel. Paul has a "thorn in the flesh," (2 Corinthians 4:7) some kind of difficulty that keeps him humble. Jesus cannot work miracles in his hometown because the people lack faith. The people in today's Gospel who reject Jesus (and so cannot benefit from his teaching and healing) think they already know who he is, but they've judged him without *really* knowing him. Have you ever been rejected or felt judged? It can be a pretty bitter experience, especially when it comes from people you expect to accept you. Or sometimes someone decides that you are not worth their time because they see you as different in some way. To help break down the preconceived notions we can have about each other, in youth ministry we sometime use the sentence starter, "If people really knew me they would know that . . ." As people fill in the blank they often find they have a lot more in common than they thought, even with people who are different from them.



"I CAN JUST BE ME"

LAURA STORY

In this video, the artist presents the story behind the song.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVRUU8UBXck

ACTION

Get to know someone this week — maybe someone you had decided wasn't worth your time at first glance. Overcome the boundaries or preconceived notions you had about them and break the ice with some basic get-to-know-you questions. Stretch your comfort zone a little, you may be surprised or challenged in some really great ways.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had what seemed like a personal weakness turn out to be a good thing?
- What's the most challenging leadership role you have ever had?