

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 4th July 2021, Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament:	Ezekiel 2. 1-5
Psalms:	Psalms 123
New Testament:	2 Corinthians 12. 2-10
Gospel:	Mark 6. 1-13

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Alastair Wheeler

Families can be a problem – and today's Gospel returns to the tensions between Jesus and his family. Even Jesus found it hard to talk of faith with those who knew him well. Those who have known us all our lives "know" who we are, and if we find a new way in which faith affects us that we want to share and talk about, families and friends can be very sceptical. Mark names four brothers and mentions 'sisters', so there are at least six in Jesus' family. Many women died in childbirth, so families could have a mixture of members from more than one mother. Whoever they were, brothers, sisters, step-brothers, cousins, Jesus' wider family couldn't cope with the dangerous attention Jesus was drawing to them by what he said and did, or the idea that "their" Jesus could be the long awaited prophet of God - and neither could the Nazareth community. Mind you I'm always amused by Mark's comment that Jesus "could do nothing significant in Nazareth only lay his hands on a few sick people and cure them"! And one important thing is that Paul mentions meeting Jesus's brother James after the resurrection running the church in Jerusalem. He changed! Perhaps, like Jesus and his brothers and sisters, if we are able to grow in faith, allow God to mould us a bit, then those who know us well may come to see that there is something in this God stuff after all!

Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm