

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 8th 2018

Introduction

All today's scripture readings throw a spotlight on prophets. There are two important points to recall about biblical Prophets.

First we think of a prophet as someone who predicts only the future. After all, everyone is interested in what is going to happen and there are many people around who claim to be able to tell us. There is interest in horoscopes and psychic readings. Forecasting the future was not the role of the prophets in the Bible .Their calling was to be God's agents to be the conscience of the nation to be attuned to evils, that others ignore and to alert the people to the spiritual sickness that was growing among them.

They spoke about the abuse of the poor by the rich, the moral cancers that were eating away at the nation from disregard of the Commandments, the blasphemy that occurred when religion just became window

dressing rather than a serious commitment. They spoke of the impending disaster if all this continued to go on.

They were moral doctors. A doctor does not primarily tell us the future. He does however tell us the truth that has a future. "Keep on smoking and "x' will happen. In the same way, the prophets were the diagnosticians of Israel's soul.

The second fact about the prophets is that none of them was very popular. They criticized the way things were, which never makes a person popular.

These facts about the prophets life are relevant to us because as a church, as a parish, as individual Christians we are called to speak and live God's word in the world around us.

In my life everything happens for a reason, for our spiritual good, if we can see it through the eyes of faith. Planted within every event in my life, every failure, every rejection is a seed of a new turn, a new life, a new direction, new grace. That insight has

enormous transforming power for looking at my life. It can give me great confidence and peace. That is a powerful walking stick on which I can lean. When I cannot discern why things happen in my life the way they do there is the trust I have in God's will and God's providence on which I can lean and rely. That is our walking stick that will help us wherever we go.AMEN.