

I AM ONLY A CHILD: WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY 2022, WEEK 16, YEAR II

JEREMIAH 1:1, 4-10; PSALM 71; MATTHEW 13:1-9

In the First Reading of today, we have an account of the call of Jeremiah. God told him that before he was born, He (God) had consecrated him. In other words, his mission preceded his birth, his essence preceded his existence. God told him that He was sending him out as a prophet to the nations, to a stubborn people who had grown used to sin.

Jeremiah gave an excuse, a genuine one to be honest. He said, "I am only a child, I do not know how to speak." True indeed, he was a child. Many biblical commentators agree that Jeremiah was born somewhere between 641 and 643 BC, which means he must have been somewhere between thirteen and sixteen years old when the Lord started giving him His word.

He was to deliver strong and direct messages from God to people who were mainly the age of his father Hilkiyah - kings and rulers who were mostly powerful, wealthy and influential people who had grown used to sin.

The Lord told Jeremiah not to make excuses and that He would be with him.

Dear friends, this is what makes all the difference.

Age and experience are important but to have the Spirit of God with us is more important.

When we are sent by God, He will go with us and He will ensure that we do not fail, if only we trust Him. Hence, there is no need to be afraid of anyone or anything. The most important thing is not who or how we are, nor where we are sent or what we are sent to do or say. The most important thing is who is sending us.

In the Gospel of today, Jesus uses a parable to explain to us why the Word of God, sown as seed, does not germinate in some of us. One of the reasons is that we despise or take offence at the messenger and so we are not open to the message. Many of the leaders and people of Israel came to destruction because they despised and maltreated Jeremiah, forgetting that the message of the messenger is of God and not of him (the messenger).

Let us pray today to come to the awareness that whatever God has called us to, He empowers us and He goes with us and so we have nothing to fear. Let us also pray that the Lord will teach us how to remove every obstacle that could prevent the seed of truth and the message of life from penetrating our hearts and bearing fruits in us.