

Saturday, April 1, 2017

Jer. 11: 18-20

Jn. 7: 40-53

“Surely the Messiah is not to come from Galilee?”

Such was one of the many criticisms hurled at Jesus in the Gospel of John.

Galilee was literally the last place anyone expected to find the Messiah. Religious types, in self-styled sophisticated Jerusalem, disdained Galileans. Galileans did not dress well or talk right.

They were loud and smelly. They intermarried with unacceptable pagan gentiles. And Galileans were as easy to spot in the first century as a native of Mississippi traveling to the Bronx (or vice-versa).

Jesus’ Galilean roots reveal that God has a sense of humor. Jesus’ Galilean roots caution us whenever we claim to know the mind of God. Just when we think we’ve got it figured out, God throws us a curve.

Not only is God found where we least expect, but we see that those judged simple and unsophisticated often have a clearer vision than we have.

Reflection questions:

As the religious leaders taunt in today’s Gospel, “You do not see the Sanhedrin believing in him, do you? Or the Pharisees? Do not tell us you are a Galilean, too!” Could this charge be made against us? Or would we be the ones making the charge?

Where is Galilee today? Galilee is found among the marginal, those who suffer mental illness, victims of AIDS, and all who would not meet the approval of the Pharisee or Sadducee within us. Dare we look to our Galilees to find him? “Do not tell us you are a Galilean, too!”

Reflection by Reflection by Deacon Brian Nosbusch