

## **2 Corinthians 12:2 - 10**

**<sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—<sup>4</sup>was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. <sup>5</sup>I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.**

**<sup>7</sup>To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup>That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

## Mark 6:1-13

In our gospel story **Jesus returns to his hometown and finds suspicion and lack of faith.** He can do no mighty works in such a climate. The passage reminds us that God's action is often clothed in the commonplace. Though rejected, Jesus perseveres and expands his ministry, commissioning his disciples by twos and sending them out to the surrounding villages to preach and to heal. They are to travel in radical dependence upon God, making little provision for their own maintenance or well-being.

Listen to the Word of God:

<sup>1</sup>Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, **“Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”** <sup>5</sup>He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

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Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup>Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

<sup>8</sup>These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup>Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. <sup>10</sup>Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”

<sup>12</sup>They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.