

Sermon Title: **“Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown”**

Bible: **Mark 6:1-13**

Where & When: at Gilroy UMC on Sunday, July 4th, 2021

Audience: about 30 people (including Youtube viewers)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, thank you so much for reappointing me to this church. I am so thankful and so blessed to have this church. I am so proud of this church. Please use me for this church and for this community. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock, our Anchor, and our Redeemer. Amen.

1. Prophets in their hometown?

Today's Scripture Reading comes from the lectionary. Sometimes, following the lectionary is not easy. Sometimes, it gives a lot of thoughts and insights. Today's Gospel reading of Mark gave me an indescribable sincere gratitude. Jesus was amazed at the unbelief of the people in his hometown. Prophets are not without honor, except in their own hometowns. Even Jesus was not an exception. He gave many teachings and he cured a few sick people, but many people in his hometown did not believe in him. That's because they thought that they knew him. It was true. Because they lived together, they knew him. They might know about his childhood mistakes, his immaturity. They knew his family: father, mother, brothers, and sisters. But did they really know him?

I believe that because they thought that they knew him, they could not know him. Sometimes, predictable biases can block us from understanding each other. We are not living in the past. We

are living today, here and now. But, we might think that if we know someone's past, we know them here and now. This is not always true. I also believe that we are created in God's image. We cannot put God in a box. Likewise, we cannot put others in a box. But sometimes we put others in our own small box, especially when we thought that we knew them. This happened a lot, in the case of prophets. Prophets were not welcomed in their hometowns. Unfortunately, Jesus was not welcomed in his hometown. Because people thought that they already knew the prophets and Jesus, they did not accept them.

2. Good Mistake?

Have you played golf? I do not know how to play golf. But sometimes, I just watch golf games. I learned a phrase: "a good miss." Is it possible to have a good miss? It is not an intended move, but somehow, it turns out good. They call it a good miss. I was ordained as an elder last Sunday, June 27. Before this ordination service, there was a voting process in the clergy session. For this clergy session, the information of the ordinands was shared. I found a very interesting mistake in my information. And I decided to accept it as a good mistake or a good miss. Do you know my home church?

3. My Home Church

According to the information that was shared at the clergy session, my home church is Gilroy United Methodist Church. This gave me an indescribable sincere gratitude. I am still welcomed to my home church, unlike the prophets. I believe that many of you remember my first Sunday, my first month, and my first year. You knew me as an inexperienced pastor. But you did not stop there. You wanted to know me better and more. You unfold my potential and my future. I

believe that's why I was able to be ordained as an elder. Even after the ordination, you still welcome me for my 4th year re-appointment. Unlike the prophets, who were not welcomed to their hometown, I am welcomed to my home church.

4. I am proud of my home church!

I am so thankful and so blessed to have this church as my home church. If you believe it or not, we are called to the United Methodist Church. It is not only because we send our apportionment to the conference, but also because you make me a United Methodist pastor. I am so proud of my home church. I hope that you also are proud of me as your pastor, and as a United Methodist pastor. I know that many of you watched the service of ordination last Sunday. But I would like to share [the highlight of the service](#).

Closing Prayer

Our Lord, thank you so much for giving us this church as our home church. We are so proud of our home church. May your grace and love be overflowing through this church. In Jesus' name.

Amen.