

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Complacent Stupidity Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time Tuesday, July 18, 2017
8:15 AM Ex 2:1-15a; **Mt 11:20-24** (St. Camillus de Lellis, priest) (Jesus expected the compassion to produce some fruit, not only in those recipients of the healing, but in those who observed it or them.)

“It will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

We are not used to dwelling on words of reproach in the mouth of **Jesus**, but that is a part of his personhood, his ministry and mission. He **was fully human and he experienced anger as we all do at injustice and complacent stupidity.**

Now very **often faith is a precondition for Jesus working.** It says in one text that “He could not do many mighty works”—that was in Capernaum—“because he marveled at people’s disbelief,” often translated unfortunately “lack of faith.” It really means their refusal to believe, their disbelief, *apistis* in the Greek. It’s not just the absence of something; it’s the rejection of something. But here there’s another aspect. **He has done many mighty works, and yet there’s no results.** People are not turning their lives around. That’s what the word “repentance” means, **to turn one’s life around**, to convert from the ego-driven world made in the image of everybody else to a God centered life of faith. And we can see here that Jesus was not simply healing people out of compassion, he was, he was the embodiment of compassion, but **he expected the compassion to produce some fruit, not only in those recipients of the healing, but in those who observed it or them**, who observed all these healings. And yet that didn’t happen. This is what this is about, and he is angry.

Now a lot of people think that, and there’s some truth in it, God’s mercy is infinite—that’s true. However what is not infinite is time. **We do not have an infinite amount of time to drink in, to take in, the infinite mercy of God.** We have a limited number of days on this planet. And this gospel suggests that we had better be quick about responding to the wonders and the marvels and the gifts the Lord provides.