

March 11, 2021

Thursday of the 3rd Week of Lent

JER 7:23-28

LUKE 11:14-23

Can you hear me now? Remember those annoying Verizon TV commercials? Can you hear me now?

I think that's what God is saying in today's readings.

In the first reading, God's prophet, Jeremiah, is delivering God's lament to the people that they never listen to Him despite all the prophets God sent them over the centuries. There were the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. There were more than a baker's dozens of judges from Joshua to Samuel. There are 18 prophetic books in the Old Testament, including Jeremiah who we hear from today. Then, of course, there's Elijah and Elisha from the Book of Kings, and Nathan, who counseled King David in the Book of Samuel. Yet the Chosen People never get the message.

So God pulls out all the stops. He sends His Only Son. But no matter what Jesus says or does, it's never enough to bring God's people to true faithfulness. After Jesus gifts a mute person with speech in today's gospel, the people grumble against Him, some asking for a sign from heaven while others accuse Jesus of being some sort of devil. It's the same old story of rejection and faithlessness. What must God do to get the attention of His Chosen People?

What must God do to get our attention—right now—today—in this time and place?

The fact is, God doesn't have to do anything to get our attention. He's already done it: A virgin birth; an earthly ministry; rising from the dead. Yet He loves us so much, He never stops trying to connect with us; to become part of our lives; to share in our hopes and dreams, our successes and failures, our joys and sorrows.

Let us pray that we not be the ones who make God keep asking "**can you hear Me now?**"