

A Time For Prophets



One of the roles of the biblical prophets was the task of messenger. They delivered God's messages to people in power. The task may have been the most disagreeable when the prophet had to expose the failure of a leader to follow the will of God and serve the people; as well as pointing out that the leader was seeking power or benefits for themselves instead. God's bad news messages that prophets were to deliver, often included the reminder that a change of ways and a return to following God, was the only way to prevent pending dire consequences. Sometimes, the prophets themselves were reluctant to take the risk of carrying out the task God set for them. Jonah's time in the belly of a big fish is a reminder that failing to speak out when called to do so, can have disagreeable consequences.

Sinning is doing things that we should not do. Sinning is also not doing the things we should do. We know people who fail to meet the needs of others will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 25:31-46). When we are not physically close enough to help, speaking out on behalf of others may be the most necessary action we are called to take. Speaking to those in power who can change policies or practices that create misery and hurt others is a critical calling. Speaking out can put us at risk. It can be inconvenient; it can require sacrifice, but we must speak for those who cannot speak for themselves or who will not be heard because of society's bias or prejudice. When we see children in cages, when we hear that families are torn apart, when we see people hungry, without access to basic hygiene, or medical care; when people are not treated with dignity we must speak out.

This week pray for:

- **People in U.S. custody on the border and families being torn apart by threatened deportations** – Reports continue to confirm that the treatment of refugees at the U.S. border is inhumane, cruel and degrading. The treatment of families is also inexcusable as many face deportation raids.
- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and now also neighboring countries** – after nearly a year of an Ebola epidemic in the DRC, the World Health Organization has now declared the situation a "public health emergency of international concern." They have confirmed that the epidemic has spread to Rwanda and Uganda. More than 2,500 people have become sick and more than 1,600 people have died. There are about 12 new cases reported each day. Conflict in the region helps spread Ebola and makes the situation worse, as do misinformation campaigns by both sides in the conflict in the DRC.

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