

Daily Morning Message  
St Paul United Church of Christ  
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247  
Allen M Fluent, Pastor  
Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings    Psalm 21  
  Jeremiah 16:14-21  
  John 7:1-9

Today's Scripture Verse:    *So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." (John 7:3-4)*

What it means:                It was the major Festival of Booths, and Jesus' brothers seem to think it is important for him to leave his rural community in Galilee and go where the world can see him. We may assume that they see that he has valuable gifts, and where better to show them off than in the large city of Jerusalem. But Jesus did not use his gifts to achieve success, but to proclaim that the Realm of God is already present in our midst.

One thing we should note whenever we read John's Gospel. John has a habit of calling Jesus' Jerusalem opponents "the Jews." We know, of course, that Jesus and all his early followers were Jews as well. What John is referring to in this passage is the religious authorities in Jerusalem, who acted politically in collusion with the Roman government.

Our time of reflection:    Jesus' sharp rejection of his brothers' encouragement to take advantage of the popularity he could achieve by his works of healing reminds us of the importance the early church gave to doing the works of God without seeking material rewards or fame. What we do for God should never be done for prestige or advantage (or even to get people to join our church).

