

# Lent *devotions*

## READ:

Mark 6:1-13 ([click to open link](#))

## REFLECT:

There's an old vaudeville line that goes: "You can lead a horse to water, but if you can get him to tap dance, then you've got something." Of course we're more familiar with the standard ending to that phrase, "but you can't make him drink." And it's the crux of the problem.

Sometimes despite all our intelligence, despite all our experience and despite all our best intentions we just can't see our nose for our face. If you've ever searched for your glasses when they were perched on your head or your keys when they were in your pocket or your cell phone when it was in your hand you know what I'm talking about.

Jesus was known to these people. This was his town. They knew his family, both its members and their occupations. And because of this they couldn't believe what he said and did. In fact, they took offense.

They took offense at the Son of God because he was too familiar. They knew him too well and because he was just like them, he couldn't be believed. Jesus was amazed and yet he understood. He understood human nature. He understood free will. He knew how it applied to him and how it would apply to his disciples.

His instruction to his disciples as he sent them out was (and I'm paraphrasing) "If they don't welcome you or listen to you, leave and have nothing to do with them. They'll get what they deserve."

Let's hope we all recognize, realize and accept just what it is we deserve.

## RESPOND:

Think about the choices and the value judgments you make every day. We are bombarded with so many choices that sometimes we settle on the newest and most novel thing, the shiny object. Today, consider your choices and who or what you're following. Consider if the thing you know, isn't in fact the right thing to follow.