



February 3 2019 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 72 Gospel LK 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

Spiritual Ponderings:

I was watching a police drama on television and two of the characters were going over the rules for engaging someone who is acting hostile. They used the phrase "Connect, Respect, Protect." The idea being to try to make some sort of connection with the person (see them as a friend), respect them as an individual, and at all times protect people. In today's Gospel we see that this is the way that God has chosen to interact with humanity. He has made a unique connection with us through His Son. He continues to Respect our freewill by not forcing Himself upon us and finally He protects His Son and us (by keeping His plan for salvation intact and by not calling down divine wrath upon those who tried to kill His Son.

Spiritual Questions

1. How do you connect with God?
2. How do you connect with others?
3. How do you respect God?
4. How do you respect others?
5. How do you protect yourself from others?