

Sunday Reading

Directions: Read the Gospel passage and answer the focus questions on a separate sheet of paper.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 4:21-30: The Rejection at Nazareth

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.

Focus Questions

1. Jesus says, "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." He is talking about how hard it is to share the Gospel with those closest to you. Why do you think this is?
2. Jesus tells a couple of stories of prophets from the Old Testament who came to the people to speak God's word. How is Jesus like the prophets? How is He different?
3. What did the people do to Jesus at the end of the Gospel story?