

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

January 27, 2013
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Spiritual Reflection:

Jesus we hear in today's Gospel returns to Nazareth "in the power of the Spirit." What was this power of the Spirit? It was knowing that He was the beloved Son of God. There may be no harder thing in life than to realize that through Baptism we are sons and daughters of God. God too is our Heavenly Father. We should bring that Spirit with us in everything we do. Sadly though the last place that we often bring it is into our homes for it is where we often face the most resistance to change. Our families keep seeing us as the same. It is up to us though to proclaim our dignity (and theirs) even when they do not wish to hear as Jesus did in today's Gospel.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What is the difference from someone who believes that he or she is a son or daughter of God and someone who does not?
2. What power does knowing one's identity give someone?
3. How can you proclaim the dignity of others better in your home life?
4. How can you make Jesus more present in your home life?
5. Why did Luke write his Gospel? Why do you follow Jesus?

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



2013

