

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

February 3, 2013
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



Spiritual Reflection:

Today's Gospel places Jesus in His own parish synagogue (church) –a situation that we find ourselves in or at least should every Sunday. In the midst of His time there He discovers a lot of woundedness, resentment, hatred, prejudice, and even violence. He however does not allow this to stop Him from practicing His faith and thus He will continue to go into one synagogue after another. His faith in the Father does not depend on others behaving justly. His faith depends on Him serving His Father.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does your parish community help you worship?
2. How does your parish community hinder your worship?
3. What does the phrase "Church is a hospital for sinners not a hotel for saints" – St. Augustine, mean to you?
4. How can you make the Church a better place?
5. What sins do you bring to Church?

2013

