

Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



Monday
March 24th 2014

Daily Devotional

“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise”

Welcome to Day seventeen as we bless our day and our life by spending a minimum of 5 minutes on each **segment** or **step below**:

- ✓ **Meditation:** [5 minutes of quiet reflection]
- ✓ **Visualization:** See what your day will be. With conviction, declare how you want your day to unfold and your intentions toward God, his creation and other people who you will be privileged to meet today. And who will be fortunate to encounter you.
- ✓ **Gratitude:** Thankful for the good happenings in your life. Appreciate where you are NOW from where you WERE then.
- ✓ **Inspirational Reading:** Read an article about a person or a situation that will inspire you today.

Collect:

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and, since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Today's Reading


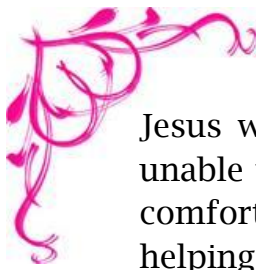
Luke 4:24-30

Daily Meditation

We cannot be saved without you Lord. Today we are reminded of the terrible irony: a prophet is not well received at home.

Luke 4:24-30 (MSG)

²³⁻²⁷ He answered, "I suppose you're going to quote the proverb, 'Doctor, go heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we heard you did in Capernaum.' Well, let me tell you something: No prophet is ever welcomed in his hometown. Isn't it a fact that there were many widows in Israel at the time of Elijah during that three and a half years of drought when famine devastated the land, but the only widow to whom Elijah was sent was in Sarepta in Sidon? And there were many lepers in Israel at the time of the prophet Elisha but the only one cleansed was Naaman the Syrian."²⁸⁻³⁰ That set everyone in the meeting place seething with anger. They threw him out, banishing him from the village, then took him to a mountain cliff at the edge of the village to throw him to his doom, but he gave them the slip and was on his way



Jesus was not accepted by those who saw him as all too human. And, he was unable to act with power in their lives. Is this Lenten season getting us out of our comfortable complacency, and helping us see the prophetic one in our midst? Is it helping us listen better, reach out with deeper longing, and find a greater intimacy with the only one who can save us? Are we too religious to see Christ? Let us cry out with the Psalmist today:

*My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see God face to face? Psalm 42*

Today's Reflection

Praise to Jesus Christ , our Lord and Saviour. By his death he has opened for us the way of salvation, and reconciled us to God our heavenly Father. Let us ask him today: Lord, guide your people to walk in your ways. God of mercy, you gave us new life through baptism, make us grow day by day in your likeness.

May our generosity today bring joy to those who are in need, - in helping them may we find you. Help us to do what is good, right and true in your sight, - and to seek you always with undivided hearts. Forgive our sins against the unity of your family. Lord, make us one in heart and spirit and mind.

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, free your Church from the sins of this world and protect us from the evil we see and the evil we prefer to ignore. We need your guidance, Lord, for we cannot do this alone. Only with your help can we be saved from the evils that surround our lives. Thank you for your desire to save us and love us. We are assured by your heart which tells us of your great love: It is not your desire that anyone of us - your creation - to perish, but that all of us would be redeemed and share in the inheritance which is ours in Christ.

*May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen*

