

Monday, March 8, 2010

Luke 4: 24-30

Jesus said to them ... “Recall, too, the many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one was cured except Naaman the Syrian.” At these words the whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation. They rose up and expelled Him from the town....

Today’s Old Testament reading (2 Kings 5:1-15) partners with today’s Gospel reading – like many days – Old foretelling the New - New fulfilling the Old. Naaman refuses Elisha’s “curing” instructions. Naaman reconsiders and when cured, proclaims his faith, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel”.

Jesus begins His ministry returning home to Nazareth (see also Mark 6:1-6). Nazareth is not impressed with “the carpenter’s son”. Jesus holds His people accountable “remember Naaman (not even an Israelite), he had more faith than you”. Jesus leaves them to try His message elsewhere. I need to be Naaman (my leprosy - sin) and not run Jesus (the cure) out of town - Jesus, don’t leave me.

What can I do to make more time to talk to Jesus, so I can try to be more open to His call to discipleship and so I can try to better fulfill whatever His Father’s will is for me?

Saint John of God, help us to act out of love as soon as we feel the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Help us learn to fight the little voices in our heads and hearts that give us all sorts of reasons to wait or delay in our service of God. Amen

Jim Jenkins