



# Daily Reflections

**September 3, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 4: 16-30**

Jesus 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." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Is this not 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 he passed through the midst of them and went away.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

What a shocking reversal in the mood of the crowd in today's Gospel reading. Why the sudden change from amazement to bitter anger? In telling them the stories about Elijah and Elisha, Our Lord is making the point that He will not be bound by their expectations. Instead of beginning His ministry among the hometown crowd, He will go first to their bitterly despised enemies to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Rather than being humble before God's plan for His only Son they want Him to perform according to their immediate needs and their expectations. Jesus will be obedient to His Father, not the crowd. What an important lesson for those who get angry with God when things do not appear to go the way they expected. Would we really rather "our" will be done or God's will be done?

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## **Food for your Journey**

Noelene Martin, from New South Wales, Australia, tells of the time when Mother Teresa visited that continent. A new recruit to the Franciscan order in Australia was assigned to be her guide and "gofer" during her stay.

"Thrilled and excited at the prospect of being so close to this great woman, he dreamed of how much he would learn from her and what they would talk about. But during her visit, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near her, the friar never had the opportunity to say one word to Mother Teresa. There were always other people for her to meet.

"Finally, her tour was over, and she was due to fly to New Guinea. In desperation, the Franciscan friar spoke to Mother Teresa, 'If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, can I sit next to you on the plane so I can talk to you and learn from you?'

"Mother Teresa looked at him.

"'You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?' she asked.

"'Yes,' he replied eagerly.

"'Then give that money to the poor,' she said. 'You'll learn more from that than anything I can tell you.'"

--Upper Room,

15 May 1994.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Heavenly Father, Left to our own desires and plans we so often get ourselves in trouble and end up miserable. Help us to learn the meaning of the prayer, "Thy will be done." May we wake up and realize that true Peace comes when we align our wills to Your will. Amen