



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO MAKE YOURS

17 JANUARY 2021 REFLECTION POINTS

LUKE 4:14-30

“ 14 Jesus returned to Galilee with the power of the Spirit. News about him spread everywhere. 15 He taught in the Jewish meeting places, and everyone praised him.

16 Jesus went back to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and as usual he went to the meeting place on the Sabbath. When he stood up to read from the Scriptures, 17 he was given the book of Isaiah the prophet. He opened it and read, 18 “The Lord’s Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers,9 and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen.’”

20 Jesus closed the book, then handed it back to the man in charge and sat down. Everyone in the meeting place looked straight at Jesus. 21 Then Jesus said to them, “What you have just heard me read has come true today.” 22 All the people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things he said. They kept on asking, “Isn’t he Joseph’s son?”

23 Jesus answered: You will certainly want to tell me this saying, “Doctor, first make yourself well.” You will tell me to do the same things here in my own hometown that you heard I did in Capernaum. 24 But you can be sure that no prophets are liked by the people of their own hometown. 25 Once during the time of Elijah there was no rain for three and a half years, and people everywhere were starving. There were many widows in Israel, 26 but Elijah was sent only to a widow in the town of Zarephath near the city of Sidon. 27 During the time of the prophet Elisha,

many men in Israel had leprosy.[a] But no one was healed, except Naaman who lived in Syria.

28 When the people in the meeting place heard Jesus say this, they became so angry 29 that they got up and threw him out of town. They dragged him to the edge of the cliff on which the town was built, because they wanted to throw him down from there. 30 But Jesus slipped through the crowd and got away.

REFLECTION POINTS

Today’s Gospel reading is a great introduction to this very new year, as it is about the very beginning of Jesus’ remarkable three year ministry. It’s even before he chose his disciples, which we will hear about next week.

It’s about:

- his leadership and prophecy,
- its about discerning the meaning and purpose of our lives through him,
- its about sorting the truth and the fake news,.

But life is not that simple and despite his unambiguous message, his followers, the Christian Church are as divided as ever and there is no better example of the Christian divide than during the Trump-Biden election. Over 80% of white evangelicals voted for Trump and about the same number of black voters voted for Biden. How can the followers of the same Jesus see things so differently.

So the question we are address is that, as Christians, how should we each discern the truth? How should we interpret Jesus and discern our modern day

prophets in a world distorted by false news and manipulation by power and influence and the deluge of mis-information from cyber space that threatens to overwhelms us.

I'm suggesting three questions:

- What are the sayings or mantra that resonates in your life?
- Who are the prophets and leaders who inspire you?
- Given the mixed messages we get from Christians around the world, how do we at MUC articulate what we fundamentally believe and how do we put it into practice.