



“Tracks for the Lectio Divina for Young Adults”

Lectioautas Project

CELAM/CEBIPAL-SEJ – UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

Rev. Gabriel Mestre

Translation by Deacon Tony Maceo

LECTIO DIVINA

Sunday, January 31st. 2009

4th. Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

“Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk”

Psalm 119:105

BIBLICAL TEXT: Luke 4, 21-30

²¹Then Jesus said to them, "What you have just heard me read has come true today."

²²All 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?"

²³Jesus 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. ²⁴But you can be sure that no prophets are liked by the people of their own hometown.

²⁵Once 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, ²⁶but Elijah was sent only to a widow in the town of Zarephath near the city of Sidon. ²⁷During the time of the prophet Elisha, many men in Israel had leprosy. ^[b] But no one was healed, except Naaman who lived in Syria. ²⁸When the people in the meeting place heard Jesus say this, they became so angry ²⁹that 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.

³⁰But Jesus slipped through the crowd and got away.



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CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION.

1 – READING.

What does the text say? What is happening in it?

Dear friends:

The continuity of this reading from last Sunday’s is obvious. It even repeats verse 21 to begin today’s text.

Jesus confirms that all previous messianic prophesies were fulfilled in Him. He is not just another prophet but rather the expected Messiah that reveals to us “the face” of God.

The word prophet comes from the Greek roots “*pro*” and “*fanai*” that mean “to tell.” It is normally applied to refer to things done or said in the name of another...thus literally the prophet is the one that “speaks in the name of.”

The verb “*fanai*” refers to the words spoken or written, direct or as a metaphor, but the prophet says something...and we can deduct that it is in the name of God. Sometimes the events described by the prophets have made some people associate them [the prophets] with seers or visionaries. This concept is very restrictive and its purpose is much more deep and complex. The prophet traces the way, anticipates events that are to come later, not as a visionary but as someone that has seen it already and can then guide the rest. Here, the prophet becomes a guide...a guide can anticipate what is ahead...

This is the result of a gift from God who speaks through the prophet by inspiring his words.

In today’s Gospel, we can perceive how the words coming from Jesus are enthusiastically received by those present. Later, as the people from Nazareth identify him as the son of Joseph, all begin to distrust him and He cites an old saying: *You will certainly want to tell me this saying, "Doctor, first make yourself well."* He will follow it with another: ²⁴*But you can be sure that no prophets are liked by the people of their own hometown*” reflecting the attitude of the people of Israel.



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The Lord will use two prophets to ratify His teaching: Elijah feeding a pagan widow in the city of Sarepta and Elisha that healed Naaman the Syrian. Both prophets have the same situation: not being part of the people from Israel...

These examples cited by Jesus uncover the unfaithful attitude of some people as well as their rejection of the true prophets, and makes the people furious trying to throw Him off a cliff but He retreats quickly out of Nazareth.

To keep in mind: Elijah and Elisha are the first of the “great prophets” of Israel. They are traced back to the XI Century B.C. and their stories are told in the First and Second Book of Kings.

Other biblical references to explore: 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 5; Jn 8:59.

To continue in depth these topics refer to the Study Bible “Contemporary English Version” and look under the words: “PROPHECY· PROPHET”

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORD

- Where is Jesus and who are those with Him?
- How does the text begin?
- What is the people’s attitude at first and what happens next? What makes them change?
- What is the response from the people from Nazareth?
- How does Jesus respond to them?
- Who were Elijah and Elisha?
- What do the Jews want to do to Jesus and where did they take Him?
- How does the Lord leave them?



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2 – MEDITATION.

What does the text tell me?

Questions to meditate

- Do I find in Jesus the Messiah that the prophets announced?
- Do I really accept the teachings of the Lord in my heart?
- Does it create scandal in me that the savior of the world can also be the “adoptive son” of Joseph?
- Can I understand the importance of the Lord’s manifestation as one of us and also be our savior?
- Who can I recognize as prophets in the modern world?
- Do I take time in my life to evangelize others including family and friends?

3 – PRAYER.

What do I (we) tell Him?

This Sunday we will use a text that reveals the vocation of the great prophet of Israel: Jeremiah (Jer 1: 4:10):

The LORD Chooses Jeremiah

⁴The LORD said:

⁵"Jeremiah, I am your Creator, and before you were born, I chose you to speak for me to the nations."

⁶I replied, "I'm not a good speaker, LORD, and I'm too young."

⁷"Don't say you're too young," the LORD answered. "If I tell you to go and speak to someone, then go! And when I tell you what to say, don't leave out a word! ⁸I promise to be with you and keep you safe, so don't be afraid."



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⁹The LORD reached out his hand, then he touched my mouth and said, "I am giving you the words to say, ¹⁰and I am sending you with authority to speak to the nations for me. You will tell them of doom and destruction, and of rising and rebuilding again."

4 – COMTEMPLATION.

How do I (we) bring the message inside of me (us)?

Today, let us take again the word prophet to apply it to our own individual particular circumstances such as:

- Lord Jesus, teach me to be your prophet in the midst of this world...
- Lord Jesus, teach me to be your prophet in my work and in my family...
- Lord Jesus, teach me to be your prophet in...

5 – ACTION.

What is my (our) commitment?

PERSONAL:

Develop a concrete plan to fulfill my calling to be a prophet...

COMMUNITY:

Work as a group by discussing who could be today's prophets and separate authentic from false prophets.