

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19 † 1 Corinthians 13:4–13 † Luke 4:21–30



Reflection by: Mary Lanni, OPA

The Gospel passage from Luke is a very important one because Jesus declares that he is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah—that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him and has anointed him to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed. Those in the synagogue that day were amazed at his authority, his demeanor, and his conviction and wanted him to be their resident healer. Jesus' response to their shortsightedness was to explain how God does not have favorites when it comes to giving his goodness and grace. His explanations angered them, and they sought to kill him.

When we become a follower of Jesus, we also assume his mission. From his declarations we see that Jesus wanted people to be free to respond to the gifts that God had given them and become the channels to make the world a true paradise. Jesus often spoke to his followers about “love of neighbor” and considered love of neighbor as the second great commandment, second only to love of God.

We sometimes find it very difficult to love our neighbors because of differences in culture and lifestyle. Jesus never had that problem. He focused on the origin of human beings and their beginnings from the hand of God. Perhaps we could see others as he did and love our neighbors as we love ourselves.