

OVER THE CLIFF

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 16th Day of Lent

Luke 4:24-30: ²⁴"Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Are You Willing to be Thrown Over The Cliff for Christ?

We all love a hometown hero. I know that every time I watch a NFL football game and hear the announcer or player say they are from WVU I feel a little bit (or a lot) of pride! Learning that a celebrity is from our state usually gives us a reason to feel proud. In our scripture today Jesus is speaking in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. I can just imagine the thrill that all of the people listening are experiencing. But, it quickly went downhill as we read the "rest of the story". Why? you ask, were they ready to throw Jesus over the cliff. Well, suddenly it wasn't just about them, the chosen ones. Jesus was telling them that he was sent for ALL. We don't always want to share with everyone do we? It is much easier to care about everyone just like us. Jesus is letting His people know that God loves all, Gentiles or Jew. He wants them to understand that He was sent not just for his hometown, but that God works among people through all nations. During our time of reflection in this Lenten season let us allow the Holy Spirit to move within us to touch lives of people out of our comfort zones. Let us remember that just as Jesus was sent for all people, so are we called to reach out to all people. May we allow the light of Christ to shine through us and bring someone out of their darkness. Go beyond your safety net and share God's love with the unloved and the unwanted. Go to the end of the cliff for Christ!

Prayer: Father God, We know that You sent your son for all. We also know that it is Your desire for us to share the love of Christ with everyone. We ask that Your Holy Spirit continue to work within us so that we may be faithful and courageous as we share Your love. In the name of Christ, Amen

Cheryl Bramble, Clarksburg
nfldteach@aol.com