

GOSPEL PEARLS

Due consideration

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He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 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. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy[b] in the time of

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Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 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. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4: 16-30)

In order to manifest His power, Jesus grants no signs except to those who are willing to let themselves be led by Him. Our Creator knows well and long before us exactly what we need. He knows that our true goal is eternal life, while we always tend to give first priority to the needs of earthly life. This is one of the main reasons for our unhappiness, if not even for our outrage, envy and blasphemy as had happened to Nazarenes who rejected Jesus to the point of wanting to capture and throw Him off a cliff. Obviously, since His time had not yet come, Jesus miraculously got rid of the angry crowd. Let us strive to give due consideration to earthly things at every moment of the day without, however, ever putting them before eternal things.