

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Thursday, January 7, 2021
Cycle B

In today's Gospel, Jesus went home to Nazareth. He went into the synagogue and proclaimed a passage from Isaiah that read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me....." He ended it with a personal declaration, "Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing". Then it ended with people asking one another, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

Those words were uttered with sarcasm and disbelief that a local boy so familiar to them is now styling himself as a prophet. Noticing their malice, Jesus would later declare, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown." Haters will always hate. Bashers will always bash. In the world of social media, bashing has become an art. In fact, they made it into a profession.

It's a good thing Jesus did not care about the number of likes His sermon gathered. He is not even bothered when people turn away from Him when He delivers a teaching difficult to accept. His self-esteem was not dependent on public perception. I guess Jesus lived by this principle: When people throw stones at you, don't throw them back. Gather them and build a monument.

Jesus teaches because He has a message to deliver – that is a prophet, not because He has to deliver a message that is to please the people. As Christians we should be a prophet that delivers a true message and not to deliver a message just to please the people.

Amen