Year C - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 4:21-30

No prophet is ever accepted in his own country

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.
They said, 'This is Joseph's son surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to the widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'
When they head this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.



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Supporting and celebrating each other

Introduction

- Imagine a field full of poppy flowers, hundreds of flowers as far as the eye can see. Most of the flowers are about the same size but once in a while, one flower grows taller than the others.
- When the flowers see one of them grow taller than the rest of them, they become jealous. They wish they were the one who was taller and so they cut the tall poppy down because if they can't be tall then nobody should.

Message

- Sometimes this can happen with us when one of our friends is really good at something like a sport or they did well at school we can become jealous of them. We might wish it was us doing well instead and in this way we can be like the poppies who wanted to cut down the tall poppy.
- Jesus understands this, he experienced this. When he returned to his hometown his neighbours couldn't believe that someone they knew could be the Son of God and do such great things.
- In those moments we have a choice, we can be jealous and try to cut others down or we can celebrate them. Be happy about the great things they can do.



Tips

- Think about if it were you, how would you want your friends to treat you?
- When you see your friends do well, tell them you think they are doing a good job. Our friends will feel good and we can feel good too.
- Each of us has our own gifts and talents, Our friends may be good at one thing but it doesn't take away from what we can do well. What is something you are really good at?

Discussion

- Can you remember a time when someone else did a great job - how did you feel?
- How do you think Jesus felt when the people from his hometown 'cut him down'?
- Do you have ideas on how we can celebrate others?