

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Esoteric Seeking**     Third Week of Lent     Monday, March 9, 2015     8:15 AM  
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; **Lk 4:24-30** (St. Frances of Rome) (What is it about human beings, what is it about us, that we don't see the treasure that's right in front of us?)

**“Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.”**

For whatever reason, this is true; it remains true that **people do not accept anything new from people who they are familiar with.** In the case of Jesus, they took exception to the fact that he was someone they knew, and “Where did he get all this?” How could he be preaching the way he is preaching? How could he be doing what he is doing? At first they marveled, but then they objected. So they were impressed, but their impression turned to a sort of offense. This Luke says took place at Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

Now today we see the same phenomenon in our own contemporaries who do not find any value or truth in the Christian gospel. **Many people** are brought up with some kind of Christian religion. They **are taught something about Christian beliefs, but they find no value in it.** But they go off to India and they seek wisdom from Buddhism or Yoga or **they go to some other esoteric source looking for something.** And there are actually quite a few testimonies that I have read of people returning to the faith they were born into when they were children after having tried to live something else. So what is it about human beings, what is it about us, that we don't see the treasure that's right in front of us? Jesus said, “Seek, and you shall find.” **Do we really recognize that seeking does not necessarily mean across the ocean or in some other language or some other culture, that what we are supposed to seek really is already right in front of us?** That's the question the gospel raises today.