

January 10, 2008
Thursday after the Epiphany

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 John 4:19-5:4

Psalm 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17

Luke 4:14-22

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. □

This is quite a powerful passage. I wonder what difference it would make in my life if I prayed it everyday? I imagine Jesus reading this passage from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. I imagine what he might have felt, what he might have understood about how this spoke to and about his life? "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." Knowing what I know, I see how Jesus responded to the words of Isaiah. He healed, he forgave, he raised the dead, he encouraged, he stood up for the downtrodden. What am I called to do in light of the fact that I too have been anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor? I was introduced to the concept of "Praying the News" by the Carmelite Sisters here in Indy. Their practice taught me to read the news and then ask myself what, in light of the gospel, is required of me in response to this event. Does something need to change in me? Do I need to act differently in particular situations? Am I called to take a public stand regarding an issue or an event? Jesus said after he read this passage, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Do our lives reflect the same commitment to this call? Again, I wonder what difference it would make in my life if I prayed this passage everyday?

The journey to happiness involves finding the courage to go down into ourselves and take responsibility for what's there: all of it.

~Richard Rohr