

The people of God rose up, raised their hands and cried out “Amen” “Amen” when Ezra open the scroll of Sacred Scripture. “Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground.”

Luke opens his Gospel by saying he investigated everything about the Lord, Jesus Christ to write it down so that all may realize the certainty of the teaching that have been received.

Reverence to the Word of God as written in both the Old Testament and the New Testament is most fitting. How do we reverence the Word of God? Attentive listening or reading is a start. Frequent reading (at a minimum daily) definitely leads us to greater reverence of God’s Word. Finally, thoughtful reflection of, and living according to what is read and understood is the culmination of reverence.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us that Jesus stood up in the Synagogue accepted the scroll, read from Isaiah and then sat down. He did not speak right away giving His listeners time to reflect on what was read. Then He said, “*This scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*”

I am not too sure that all the listeners were trying to reflect on what Jesus read. Luke says that “...the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at Him.” Having heard how well He spoke and taught elsewhere they perhaps expected to be wowed by Jesus remarks. They were at first, but ultimately wanted to throw Him over the precipice.

The next sentence after the end of today’s Gospel reads “*And all spoke highly of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His mouth.*”

We do not now hear the words that came from His mouth but we can read them or hear others proclaim them. The question is do we reflect enough on them that we may be amazed; that we may be gratified for His words and teaching; that we may be inclined, if not urged, to follow His every word?

We will be amazed the more we reflect on what He said and is saying to us deep within our own being. What it takes is

- Slow prayerful reading
- Quite reflection on what was read
- Silent listening to the ever present voice of the Lord

Take the time daily to be amazed. You will be.