

Today in our Gospel we are challenged to stop “boxing in” others. The people in Jesus’ day did it to him. The ancient Israelites did it to others.

The people in the synagogue are amazed at the eloquence of Jesus’ preaching. They can’t believe their ears. They know Jesus is Joseph, the carpenter’s, son. He’s from Nazareth which is no great center of learning. Their thoughts put limits on Jesus’ giftedness.

Then Jesus recalls for his listeners the widow of Zarephath and Naaman, the leper, who were instruments of God’s mighty deeds among the Israelites. Simple, poor, ordinary people being used by God for some good. Jesus is saying: Don’t box people in. Don’t put limits on God’s creation.

This week notice how often we may be tempted to box people in....how we make them smaller, lesser or more limited than they are. Pay attention to how we may do this to our self. Let’s see if we can resist these temptations. Let’s take small baby steps toward seeing others and our selves as God does: beloved daughters and sons who are unique, special, creative, loveable and wonderfully gifted.

My sisters and brothers, let’s ask God to assist us to see one another and our selves with new eyes, a new imagination, and the eyes of our Creator.