

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

BE OPENED TO WORD OF GOD



“Take courage, do not be afraid. Here is Your God. It is the vengeance that is coming, the revenge of God. He will save you.” This is the message that we heard in the first reading. Let us understand well, this revenge of God is that of His love. He does not take His revenge against us but against the evil that affects us and destroys us. His revenge is to eliminate evil; it is to make sure that the blind sees and the deaf hear. The good news is that God loves us more than any being in the world. Our life often knows physical and moral humiliations. But the Lord is there; He comes to free us and save us. With Him, evil cannot have the last word.

In the second reading, Saint James reminds us of what the response of the Christian community should be.

Personal considerations have no place there. The temptation to spare the rich and the powerful is always very present. This behavior is incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God chose the poor and made them rich in faith. He made them the heirs of the Kingdom. This is a very strong clarification for our ambient society of overconsumption. Discrimination is still very present. We think of the rise of racism, the rejection of foreigners and immigrants, the abuse of power and corruption. We avoid associating with those who are not of our world. The clarification of Saint James is also addressed to us today.

The Gospel of Saint Mark shows us that with Jesus it is exactly the opposite. Today, we see Him in pagan territory and not in the territory of Israel. His mission is not reserved for a single people or territory. It is open to all. It is there that He will heal a deaf mute. This man represents an entire people practically closed to the Word of God. He is incapable of proclaiming the wonders of his Creator. He is deaf to the good news of the Gospel. His encounter with Jesus was something extraordinary. One word sums up all of Christ’s action well: Ephphatha (Be Open). Jesus comes to open us to God, to others, to all others.

This disabled man is like us. Even if we hear and speak correctly, we can sometimes close ourselves off. We live in a super-mediatized world, but many continue to live in individualism. Everyone seeks at all costs to protect their interests and privileges. This attitude makes us deaf to the dramas of the world and to the common good.

When Jesus tells us “Open yourself”, it is to open us to the Word of God. We discover this word by reading the Bible. It is in our everyday life and through various events that God speaks to us. The Bible, the Gospel, gives us the ability to decode the language of God through all the realities of life. In this year of faith desired by our Pope, we will take the time to nourish ourselves with this Word of God so that it truly transforms our lives. It is given to us so that we may understand how much God loves us.

On this day, we beg you, Lord: Touch my ears that they may hear. Touch my lips that they may proclaim Your praise. In Your Eucharist, the Sacrament of Sacraments, touch my whole being, my whole body, that I may live through You and for You. Amen

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