

Reflection for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Brothers and Sisters: Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword.

Hebrews 4:12

The statement “*The Word of God*,” can invoke a powerful response in mind, heart, and soul. These four words indicate not just God but His communication with us. This statement reminds us that our God is not an absentee God that created the world and left us to our own devices rather His word is present to help and guide us in this world and into the next world.

Recently I read an article from Catholic Answers Magazine, dated October 1, 1994. I found the article online, and the title of the article is, “*What does ‘Word of God’ mean in the Bible?*” This article points out that some Christians, think the phrase “Word of God” in Scriptures always refers to the Bible. The article goes on to point out that often the phrase “*Word of God*,” does refer to Scriptures, but it is also used to refer to Jesus, to oral prophecy, or oral preaching of the Gospel. We can turn to John 1:1 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*,” in the first verse and first chapter of the Gospel of John we are being informed that the *Word of God* is with Him, it is universally understood that the *Word of God* is the Son of God the Christ. This first verse of the Gospel of John is pointing out that Christ the *Word of God*, was in existence from the beginning, that the *Word of God*, was not created by God but was already there. We can come to the same conclusion with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity existed before anything else, before time, and space the Holy Trinity was and is.

So, the *Word of God*, that spoke the world into creation, is the same *Word*, or in Greek *Logos*, that saved a fallen world and gave hope to humanity of the possibility of eternal salvation. We can turn to the healing miracles found in the New Testament and encounter Jesus Christ speaking the word that makes the person whole and complete. We can see it in the final words of Jesus Christ as He hung on the cross, He assured the good thief that his sins were forgiven, and he would be with Jesus in paradise. Be it the blind man that was given sight, the crippled that was able to walk again, or the good thief that was given paradise, the *Word of God*, was and is living and effective to them.

The *Word of God*, that we hear about in our Second Reading this Sunday is not meant to be relegated to the past or only found in the pages of Scripture but is alive and effective in our present age. In our Gospel reading this Sunday we hear of a man running up to Jesus and asking Him what he needs to do to enter eternal life, at the end of the conversation with Jesus the man ends up walking away sad and not committing to what he must do to have eternal life. At the end of the Gospel Reading, we hear Jesus informing His Disciples that eternal life can only be had with the help of God, Jesus points out that all things are possible with God.

The reason why the man that asked Jesus what he must do to obtain eternal life was not able to follow through is that he was not open to letting go and letting God control His life. This man was not willing to take the leap of faith. The blind man, the crippled man, and the good thief were all willing to take the leap of faith, and so they were made whole in this world and the next. It is the *Word of God*, the logos that provides us to this very day with the opportunity to take the leap of faith and be forever changed by the presence of God in our daily lives. This logos, this *Word of God*, is found today in Scriptures, in the Sacraments, and in our personal encounters with Jesus Christ, the *Word of God*.

We can be like the man who ran to Jesus looking for eternal salvation, but left not willing to let go and trust in God for he felt blessed and was not willing to let go and let God. This man was trying to stay in control, when what he needed to do was hand over control to God. The question we should ask ourselves, is our we ready to let go and allow God to be in control of our lives? If we are not willing to let go, then God

will not be able to guide us from this world to the next. We might think we are ready to place God in the driver seat for our life journey, but if we do not truly trust others then are we willing to trust God? The people that we journey with in this world provide us not only with an opportunity to share God's love with them, but these same people provide us with an opportunity to let go and trust, in others and in God. There is no mistake that God and placed us in a community of faith so that we can rely on each other and let go and let God, guide us this day and every day.