

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
September 2, 2018
The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 † James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 † Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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The continued revelations about the sex abuse scandals in our Church have been so upsetting and have served as a crisis of faith for many Catholics. In last Sunday's gospel (John 6: 60-69) we heard Peter say in the midst of another crisis of faith: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Spoken like the true disciple that Peter was.

However, this week's Scripture readings challenge us to look at whether our actions match what we say. "Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." (James 1). Sometimes what we say we believe—what we value as disciples of Jesus—is not always what our actions demonstrate. One way to see if our words match our actions is to ask ourselves these three questions:

- What do I spend *time* on?
- What do I spend *money* on?
- What do I spend *emotions* on? (What do I get angry about? What do I rejoice over? What do I worry about? What do I grieve over when it is missing?)

The Scriptures invite us to spend time reflecting on what we *really* value. How Gospel-based are my actions? To what extent have I taken on the mind and heart of Jesus?

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!



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