

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

August 29, 2021

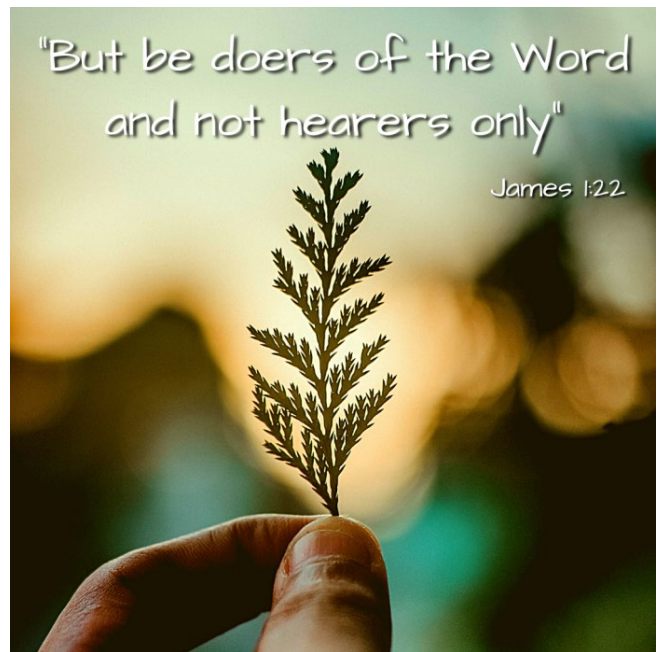
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 † James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 † Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Reflection by: Sister Jeanne Goyette, OP

Humbly welcome the Word of God planted in you. Be doers of the Word.

Hear ye! Hear ye! Haven't we all heard the Word of God? It has been expressed in so many ways—whether through the Scriptures, through creation, through retreats and meditation, through another's loving concern or challenge, or through news reports of suffering people or the climate crisis. Haven't we all heard the Word and most often opened our hearts to humbly welcome that Word? Or to be honest we have sometimes been reluctant to welcome and receive the Word. Today's readings encourage us to be open and welcome the Word no matter how it comes to us each day, believing that it can lead to new life.



To hear the Word is not enough. We must take the Word to heart and be doers of the Word. To be hearers only is to delude ourselves, as St. James reminds us. The best way to act on the Word is to realize that Jesus is the Word planted in us. The motto, "What would Jesus do" then becomes our guideline. In the Gospel reading, Jesus makes it clear to the Pharisees and scribes and to us that our actions must spring from the heart—a heart filled with love of God and neighbor. Human doctrines and traditions should be designed to bring us closer to God and to serve others, especially the neediest. Jesus reminds us that the commandments to love God and our neighbor as ourselves always take precedence.

Today's Scriptures invite us to reflect on our actions. Which human precepts or traditions separate us, isolate us, keep us focused on ourselves? Which bring us closer to God and encourage us to care for others, including all of creation?

Let us humbly welcome the Word and act accordingly.