

Thoughts on the Daily Word

17th Week of Year. Friday 31st July. Readings: Jeremiah 26:1-9; Psalm 68; Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58.

One of the things that has always fascinated me in reading the prophets and just how God deals with us is the bending over backwards to forgive. Then, at a certain point it changes to warning of the consequences of unwillingness to listen. Then the point comes when it is too late and listening, however unlikely at this stage, can only mitigate the disaster. We sometimes think that understanding the prophets is for the past, but really it is how God deals with us now. When I am praying for discernment, I always ask the Lord at what stage we, he and I, are. Have I reached the point of no return? Sometimes when I am praying about others and their problems, I ask the same question. In today's word about Jeremiah, we are reaching that climax point, from now on there is no going back but the Lord wants still to protect his people. At the root is a failure to listen to the people and the same problem faces Jesus when the leaders of his community cannot believe that a mere worker, a carpenter, could possibly have something to offer. Miracles, or works of power, will come, but too late to save Israel from disaster.