

Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Advent. Friday 5th December. Readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm: 26; Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31.

The vision of Isaiah is seen as redemption still. God will redeem Israel. It is the pattern since the liberation from Egypt. Living as we do in our industrial countries that sense of redemption as liberation is hard for us to comprehend. It is not that we don't appreciate it, but it is hard to feel its reality. Maybe much in the same way that slavery or serfhood was thought of as a fact of life in older days. In the 1960's and 70's when Liberation Theology seemed to be on the way to becoming the dominant understanding of the Scriptures it was remarkable how short lived that it was. It is still a powerful force, but it failed to take root in our Western Church perhaps because we couldn't understand our own slavery. Advent is about liberation from blindness, hence today's Gospel, we are blind to the reality of structural sin in our world. Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about their cure perhaps because he knows that they don't really understand its deeper meaning. It will take the cross to reveal what liberation is really about.