

Thoughts on the Daily Word

3rd Week of Lent. Monday 9th March. Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Psalm: 41; Luke 4:24-30.

Are we outsiders? This is a question we often ask ourselves in all sorts of situations. Sometimes we can resolve and become insiders and sometimes we just stay on the outside, never really feeling at home. Today's readings seem to prioritise being an outsider. This raises serious questions as we journey to either become a Christian or renew our faith. Do we just want to be insiders and then everything is ok? Was Jesus ever an insider? His ministry placed him without anywhere to lay his head, is that the epitome of an outsider? Is becoming a Christian a deliberate choice to be an outsider in our world? Today's readings raise lots of questions, they test what we are really after or seeking assurance about. To choose to be a Christian is to choose to identify with those on the edge, the liminal. We are a pilgrim people, a people on a journey just like the Exodus. The Spirit leads us into the desert. He tells us when to move in caravans, and he tells us when to stop in oases. That is the rhythm of the Christian life, caravanning and oases are both challenges.