

Thoughts on the Daily Word

13th Week of Year. Friday 4th July. Readings: Genesis 23:1-4,19,24:1-8,62-67; Psalm:105; Matthew 9:9-13.

The story in Genesis has been shortened considerably to emphasise the roots of the Abrahamic faith, the land and the race. These would be the foundations on which the promise to Abraham would grow. The contrast with the Gospel today can seem severe. The purity of the new religion of Abraham that wouldn't allow Isaac to be married to a local compared to the openness of Jesus to those considered impure, or outcast can seem to be making a complete break with Israel. Only by looking closer can we see that it is God who chooses those who will receive his promise. Not on the basis of merit or purity but on God's sovereign choice. Time and time again God chooses the unexpected and even dodgy. Jacob being the obvious person whose behaviour, along with his mother is disreputable. And yet, God chooses him, not his better brother. Jesus teaches us to trust in God's Plan or Promise, not in our own expectations.