

Thoughts on the Daily Word

16th Week of Year. Thursday 23rd July. Readings: Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8,12-13; Psalm 36; Matthew 13:10-17.

The story of Jeremiah is the sad story of a people who fail to listen to God either because of greed or desire for power. It will lead to disaster on a massive scale. As we see the mess we are in due to our inability to listen so both Jeremiah and Jesus challenge us on the role of leadership. Jeremiah gives us the wonderful image of a people digging useless or leaky cisterns. In a world that experienced both droughts and sieges, water was vital for life and survival. This is the underlying comparison being shared through God's Word. We all do this of course in our lives. Our capacity to seek the wisdom of the God's Word is extremely limited as we prefer to use our human judgement, always based on what we call rationality. In truth, of course, it is really based on our desires and felt need. Jesus too, echoing Isaiah, talks about the deliberate shutting of eyes and closing of ears. In our time we call it the failure to investigate and the deliberate hiding of the truth.