

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*12<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Readings: 2 Kings 24:8-17; Psalm 78; Matthew 7:21-29.*

After the terrible deportation of the first ten of the tribes of Israel, now comes the first deportation of Judah and particularly Jerusalem. This time it is the elite, or some of them, being deported to weaken the nation. Along with them goes what was deemed its wealth, the gold and silver of the Temple, in other words its financial heart. There will be worse to come, but what the writer seems to emphasise is that it is the poor who are left. These poor will remain faithful but vulnerable, the Word will be taken from them. These deportations are likened to the slavery in Egypt, with all its suffering. And yet, they are also soon to be likened to the journey into the desert, the Exodus. Something has to change, from slavery to freedom. In the stories of what will eventually be called the Exile in Babylon we hear that shift, led by prophets like Ezekiel. The Exile will be likened to the desert story where Israel once again is wedded to it God and its Covenant. During this time a new understanding of the Word will take place. The Law will rise to prominence as at the heart of the Jewish faith. The Word takes its place as the foundation of God's People fully only with the Word, Jesus Christ. Our Gospel tells us to listen and act on his Word.