

Thoughts on the Daily Word

18th Week of Year. Tuesday 4th August. Readings: Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22; Psalm 101; Gospel: Matthew 14:22-36.

Once again, speaking truth continues to be challenging. It is an expression that is popular today as it encourages protest and change. However, in the Scripture it is not an end in itself. The challenge is the establishment of community. Not any form of community but one with the God of the Covenant at its centre. Jeremiah again challenges the powers that be but he also proclaims the purpose of God as being one of restoring the kind of community that began with the tents of Jacob. The simplicity of a life of 'hebrews', wanderers, often seen as outcasts or bandits is then placed alongside the rebuilt promise of a new kind of city. There is an intimacy and a sense of coming home again that welcomes everyone. Much like the parable of the Prodigal Son. A challenge lies alongside a vision of a welcoming homecoming. The Gospel has the same pattern of challenge and vision. Once again, the Exodus story of the formation of Israel takes first place. Can Peter, like Moses, walk through the water? In this case an even greater miracle, walking on the water. This is not just a miracle story but a promise of a new kind of community, on of faith.