

Thoughts on the Daily Word

4th Week of Year. Wednesday 4th February. Readings: 2 Samuel 24:2,9-17; Psalm: 32; Gospel: Mark 6:1-6.

In the ancient world a census was an instrument of power and control. It emphasised who was in control and denoted subjects under their control. This was David at his most powerful, claiming to own everyone. In this case it was largely to determine who must fight in his army, and possible also pay for it. Even his military commander, Joab, resisted this but David insisted. Eventually he realised he did not own Israel, it was God' kingdom, his possession. As with most misuse of power, it's not David but the people who suffer. The Gospel is also about knowledge and power. His kindred think they know Jesus, who and what he is. How wrong they are.