

Thoughts on the Daily Word

5th Week of Year. Wednesday 11th February. Readings: 1 Kings 10:1-10; Psalm: 36; Gospel: Mark 7:14-13.

The Queen of Sheba is first impressed by Solomon's wealth and apparent power. The wisdom she sees is what makes that power effective. He uses his gifts, that which had been left to him by the successes of David, to enhance his wealth and status. All is not what it seems. The writer of Kings will point out, reluctantly, the weaknesses that will become apparent. Solomon reigns at a unique time when the usually terrifying powers of Assyria, Babylonia and Egypt are weak. It will not last long. Eventually the economic exploitation of the poor will divide and then destroy much of Israel. Much will be traced back to Solomon and his wives. He himself will be seduced by the gods of his many wives. All is not what it seems on the outside. Jesus strikes to the heart in his simple wisdom, or parables. It is what comes out of the heart that truly matters and is true wisdom.