

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

5th Week of Year. Thursday 8th February. Readings: 1 Kings 11:4-13; Psalm: 105; Gospel: Mark 7:24-30.

The success of Solomon leads him to be attracted to the wider culture and civilisation of the Middle East of its time. Perhaps he thought the narrowness of the Israelite religion of his time too limiting of his power. Perhaps too he lost the sense of vocation inherent in the Jewish faith. The Exodus story is not just the liberation of slaves but a calling to change the world. In this story it is the world that changes Solomon and the rich elite of Jerusalem. Wealth and power seduce even the wise. It will take Jesus to build a new pattern of service as in today's Gospel to rearrange the relationship between Jew and Gentile.