

### **Thoughts on the Daily Word**

28<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year. *Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Readings: Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1; Psalm: 112; Gospel: Luke 11:29-32.*

Slavery was once seen as belonging to history. When I grew up, we read about its long history and the struggle for its abolition, successfully achieved, in all but primitive peoples. How different do we see it now. First modern slavery appeared among us, in our western, advanced countries. Then, through the Black Lives Matter protest we have been re-awakened to the existence continued discrimination. Slavery was a reality in Paul's time. It was the basis of the economic system and hardly challenged. He was envisioning a different reality. He was dreaming of a new world where all would be equal before God. Within the Christian Community, called ecclesia because the word meant being called out. Called out of the oppression and corruption of the world to live a new reality of freedom and equality. For Paul this was rooted in the freedom of the Gospel. To be fair, the Jewish Law did not envision slavery among the Chosen People. For Jesus, though, slavery came in our modern form. How we deal with and understand each other. Jesus challenged all the divisions within society. All the 'uncleanness' that divides and diminishes. The Gospel story shows the despised outsiders with dodgy reputations, the Ninevites and the Queen of Sheba's of this world, all were more responsive to the Gospel, and all were more free than the 'Chosen' people. They responded to God's promise of change and hope.