

Thoughts on the Daily Word

28th Week of the Year. *Wednesday 16th October. Readings: Galatians 5:18-25; Psalm: 1; Gospel: Luke 11:42-46.*

One of the saddest things I discovered many years ago was that the root of sexual abuse lay not in sensuality but in power. The desire or need to dominate others is deeply rooted in our frail humanity. This would appear to partly explain the presence of all kinds of abuse where there are situations of power. The 'Me too' movement and the recent revelations about all kinds of sports abuse would seem to show the same pattern. We probably, as a society, haven't reached the bottom of that deadly pit yet. Sadly, the Church should have been the one place where it didn't happen but instead became the first place in which it was exposed. Paul's challenge to the Galatians and Jesus' to the pharisees is precisely an awareness of the roots of the abuse of power. Power is good, an essential part of being human, simply to be is an expression of power. How we use that power is the critical question. Ultimately the cross reveals what the power for good is all about.