

FEBRUARY 16, 2022  
Wednesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Mark 8: 22-26

“HEAR, UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT AND ACT ON THE WORD.”

We always listen or read the Word of God. To some everyday, to some not quite often but the important thing is when we hear or listen or read the Word of God, do we only use our ears or our hearts. When we use our hearts not only our ears, we put into actions what we heard and listened to. This is the message of our First Reading today from the Letter of James. “James begins with a number of instructions: 1. ‘Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger; for a man's anger does not fulfil God's justice.’ Advice that is as relevant now as it was when he wrote it. It is so easy to jump to conclusions and over-react. So often we do not really listen, and we are too hasty to respond. And, while there is a legitimate anger, our angry responses are seldom made for the good of the other. And our reactive anger certainly does not reflect the Spirit of God working in us. 2. ‘Strip away all that is filthy, every vicious excess.’ That can cover many things, every form of over-indulgence, sexual and otherwise. 3. ‘Humbly welcome the word that has taken root in you, with its power to save you.’ We have constantly to be in a receiving mode for the word of God, which can come to us from so many sources and in so many ways. And this word has truly a saving power; it can genuinely have a transforming effect on us. 4. ‘Act on this word. If all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves.’ As we have pointed out elsewhere, listening to God's word embraces a number of elements: 1. to hear the Word; 2. to understand it; 3. to accept and assimilate it; and 4. to act on it. Without the final step, our hearing is incomplete.”<sup>1</sup>

Even St. Paul reminds us that faith without good works is nothing, is dead. We need to put into action what we hear from our Lord. For James, real worship is “to look

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<sup>1</sup> [livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”<sup>2</sup> and this is evident in our gospel as Jesus healed the blind man. Jesus cared for those who are afflicted and need healing, those who need mercy and forgiveness. Jesus Christ showed that words or preaching and good works are essential to proclaim the Kingdom of God. We are called to action after we heard the Word of God. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, go out to all the world and proclaim the Good News of salvation today and always.

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<sup>2</sup> James 1: 27 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society