

INTRO - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time C

What happens when the Word of the Lord is proclaimed?

What power can it have? How can it affect us?

WOG has power – we are going to see in in NEH and in Gospel –

But what's important for us is that the WOG has power right here, right now, in NSJ LUP

NEH – background

Cupbearer hears Jerusalem in shambles – King's Commission – they fine Torah (WOG) & this happens
READ IT

- Ezra, scribe, opens scroll and all people rose
- Ezra prays, blessing God,, all the people bow down to the ground
- Ezra reads it, interprets it, proclaiming the Word so all understand & people weep
 - In exile they did not obey the law (Feasts, Kosher, even Commandments)

But now the *Word of the Lord is proclaimed* – they weep – BUT Nehemiah – “**do not weep, REJOICE!**”

- WOG can be convicting – pointing out our failures – but WOG is the source of our joy
- WOG shows us God's love and compassion for us
- Law was given by God as a means of taking care of His people – protecting them from sin
- WOG is God's means of revealing Himself to us

THUS PS 19 “Your words lord are Spirit and Life” READ IT

NB Characteristics of WOG described in this psalm

perfect refreshing the soul trustworthy
precepts are right commands are clear enduring forever

WOG is indeed Spirit & Life – lifting us closer to a God that calls us together to worship Him as one body

Which is what COR is all about

A body has many parts, each with a different function – but united it is still one body

As Christians we are different men, with different abilities – but one Church, on body READ IT

GOSPEL – READ IT - In today’s Gospel - Jesus comes to Nazareth – “where he grew up”

“and went into the Synagogue as was his custom” its what He did – every Sabbath it was ‘his custom’

And He reads Isaiah – He proclaims The Word of the Lord

Jesus moves His hearers **beyond receiving an explanation of the Word**

To encountering Him, as THE WORD – The Word Made Flesh announces God's promise:

The messiah would meet the needs of the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed

God always fulfills His promises:

We make promises all the time – my wedding ring is a promise made to my wife
a stamp – post office's promise to deliver a letter
a signature on credit card – promise to pay

God promised through Isaiah that when the messiah came He would:

“meet the needs of the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed”

and Jesus tells all that hear Him “Today this promise is fulfilled in your hearing

“Jesus came to Nazareth – where he grew up” “and went into the Synagogue as was his custom”

“As is our custom”, we come together here → into community (as the Body of Christ) – fed by W.O.G.

After hearing the WOG

After being fed with the Body of Christ

Filled with the Holy Spirit

We can say with Jesus:

“The spirit of the Lord is upon US

He has anointed US to bring glad tidings to the poor

He has sent US to proclaim liberty to the captives ...” (freedom from sin)

Let’s go do it!