

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?

Look what happens to NEH – background

- 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!**

Another example is 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 His saving mission

To meet the needs of the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed

This is what happens when the Word of God is proclaimed – we meet Jesus

How do we proclaim the Word of God? What is our role? **What do we each have to offer?**

Together each and every one of us has a role in proclaiming the Word of God.

Don't think your role is insignificant.

1st Cor. - The Body of Christ needs every part, every person, to fulfill his or her role in the battle.

When I was in High School I was on the track team

I was not great – but I got some points for our team

My effort didn't win the day, I was part of the team – & the team won.

As Christians WE are part of God's team, and it is our ‘custom’ to proclaim the WORD

We make the Word present to the world.

We re-create the world – in midst of good versus evil battle all round us we bring New Life!

And we each have a role to play in this event.

If you were arrested for being Christian would there enough evidence to convict you?

“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 ...”

Let's go do it!