

## **Be Doers of the Word, Not Hearers And Speakers only**

One of the themes today's readings invite us to reflect on is how we allow the Word of God we hear to influence our daily lives. In the first reading, Moses, the lawgiver, gave his people the farewell message as they were about to enter the Promised Land, which he didn't arrive with them. He admonished them to keep the norms and laws God gave them, which will make their relationship with God to be very strong and will attract the admiration of other nations on how close their God is to them.

Similarly, the second reading, the letter of St. James, which we shall be reading as our 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for the next 5 Sundays, is filled with different exhortations. Strikingly, it invites us to be doers and not only hearers of the Word of God, especially doing the work of social justice- the care of the poor, oppressed, and the less-privileged. Our Gospel today, the Gospel of Mark chapter seven, is on the encounter of Jesus with the Pharisees and the Scribes. Jesus had issues with the Pharisees and the Scribes not because of their strict observance of the laws but their hypocrisy. They were mainly interested in judging others and never paid attention to their own lives. Their religious strictness was lips service and ritualistic and never grounded in compassion and love.

An important invitation to all of us today is to allow the faith we profess in the Creed, the faith we expressed in our prayers, and the faith we celebrate in our liturgies, especially the Eucharist, to influence our words and actions. Hence, in every Mass, we are presented with readings to help us reflect on different aspects of our relationship with God and one another. The question should be, what aspects of my life that need the Word of God to touch, either for a change or for the strength to continue to do the good I am doing? Let us pray that the opportunity we have to encounter him in Word and Sacraments will help us to continue to be doers of his Word. Amen.