

In a few brief words the Old Testament reading from the Book of Sirach tells us to pay attention to our words. “When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears; so do one’s faults when one speaks... so a person’s speech discloses cultivation of the mind. Do not praise someone before they speak, for this is the way people are tested.”

Be careful of words for the spoken, words can reveal much.

As Christians, we refer to the Bible as God’s Word. And there is power in God’s Word. In the first Chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus is called the Word. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.”

Here the word, “Word” is the translation of the Greek “Logos”. It’s where we get our word “logic” from. In saying that Jesus is the Word, John is saying that Jesus is the logic, the foundation, that by which we make sense of the world, make sense of reality.

The Gospel today speaks about foundations. No good tree bears bad fruit; by its fruit a tree is known; out of the treasure of the heart one brings forth good or evil. In what soil are we rooted? To what treasure is our heart attached?

By what word; by what logic are our choices formed? Is Jesus the Logic of our lives? Is Jesus the Word which we speak?

In John’s Gospel when he speaks of Jesus as the Word, he is speaking about the Incarnation of the Son of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. God pitched his tent amongst us or the actual expression is that he set up his tabernacle amongst us. The Word is God but God is humble, God is self-emptying. God loves in a way that does not cling to power and greatness but bends down to the ones he loves. Is this the kind of word we speak through the witness of our lives?

This week the Holy Season of Lent begins. Once again we are called to enter a special time of penance, repentance and conversion. Lent is meant to be a time of humbling ourselves as we examine our lives and turn away from sin. It’s a humbling time as we deny ourselves the good things of life as we journey to the

greater good of God's Kingdom. Lent is a special time to situate ourselves in the Logic of the Word, the Logic of Jesus who is the Word of God.

The Book of Sirach begins with these words, "When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears." Lent is a time to shake the sieve of our lives, to let the refuse appear. But the sieve is God's Word; it is Jesus. Let us use these Lenten days to enter into the logic of our Lord, to follow him on his path of humility, self-emptying love and a rejection of power and greatness in order to serve and care for the little ones in our midst.