

Second Hand Preacher

28th Sunday Ordinary Time

October 11, 2015

Hebrews 4:12-13

“Indeed the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword...” These are powerful words written by the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. This was written to strengthen the faith of the Hebrew community. Those who had Jewish roots, yet they celebrated Jesus. Even back then the worship services had Word and sacrament, much like our Catholic Mass has today. The Author is trying to show just how important the Word is. This author was speaking to a people who were used to synagogues worship, but many of them were probably being expelled from their synagogues because of their faith in Jesus. The early Christians often met in homes and they would still study the scripture of the day, which we refer to as the Old Testament. They also had an oral tradition of the Kerygma. They studied about the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Some of the eyewitnesses were getting older, but there would have been some who knew Jesus firsthand.

We have the opportunity to know Jesus, as well. One great way is through the Word of God. For us, it is the Old and New Testaments. We have a primary focus of the four Gospels that show the mission of Jesus. His life teachings, passion, death, and resurrection define us as a people. The heart of the Eucharist also lies within the Word of God. The Bread of Life discourses along with the last supper narratives from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and several letters of Paul give us a picture of what we share in Jesus. The Word of God should mean as much to us as it did to the early followers of the Christ. I bought a t-shirt for my sister that has an open book with a cross emerging. The caption below said, “When all else fails, read the directions.) How appropriate is the message of salvation given to us in the Bible. May God continue to guide us with his Word!