

Be Doers of the Word

Do not merely
listen to the word ...
Do what it says.



The Jewish people, our ancestors in faith, lived by a set of rules and regulations established by Moses. The purpose of these guides for life was not to render the Jewish people powerless over themselves, but in Moses' words,

“Observe them (the laws) carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations...”

The laws covered what the Jewish people could eat and how they conducted their household and personal, sanitary rituals.

So, it may seem a little odd that Jesus' disciples, who were Jews, began to eat without performing the ablutions before meals... simply washing their hands before they ate their food. On the surface, this doesn't seem to be an out of order

observation of the Pharisees and Scribes. We all would expect people today, as well as in Jesus' time, to wash their hands before eating. More astonishing to us may be Jesus' response to the questioners:

“Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites...this people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...”

Jesus saw, and sees, into the hearts of the people, knowing their motivation for actions. He was not rendering the “laws” invalid, but he was challenging what he perceived as the **hypocrisy** of those speaking. Instead, he taught the crowd and said,

“...Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

Jesus goes on to recite the sins that humanity commits against each other and God, all the evil that can come from within. He tells them to observe God's commandment and we know that is: ***“...Love one another, as I have loved you.”*** An example of this love for one another is proclaimed in the letter of James who urges the listeners to **action (social justice), by being doers of the word, caring for the less fortunate.**

Let us strive, as individuals and as a parish community here at Holy Cross, to be doers of the word and not hearers only, and live God's **law of love.**

The Pastoral Team

**AUGUST
BAPTISMS**



Holy Cross
welcomes
these children
Baptized
in August

Riley Thomas Demes
Lailah Maryn Greening
Ryan Anthony Mennella
Charles Michael Pitman
Daniella Riva
Justin Thomas Solomito