

Hebrews: 1-5. 11

Mark 2: 1-12

What stands out for me today is the word 'Faith.' But what is Faith?

In the Reading we hear Paul cautioning the people to continue to strive for the, 'Place of peace.' Eternal life. To turn to, or continue to listen to, the Word of God. 'The Good News.' They were not to falter or ignore the Good News, as others had done who had forgotten the gift of life promised by God after the fall. Banishing themselves, as it were, from the garden of Eden.

As human beings we tend to rely on what we see, rather than trust in what we hear. Yet even when we do see, we can quickly forget! The message of the Responsorial Psalm and the Response in particular, take up this theme. "Never forget the deeds of the Lord." We need to remind ourselves and those around us of all that we have seen and heard. This is the basis of Faith.

In the Gospel, Jesus reveals the nature of Faith. First, he commends the actions of those who, to seek the healing of their friend, lower him on a stretcher through the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching. This displays an act of Faith. On seeing this Jesus says to the Paralytic, "My child your sins are forgiven." ( ie.You are now worthy of eternal life.) But the Scribes can only register that Jesus is blaspheming. So, Jesus teaches them (and us) a further lesson about Faith. He heals the paralytic and everyone is amazed! The scribes and the people believe when they can see. We are called to remember and proclaim such events in our own lives. But, more importantly, we are also called to believe in and pass on the Word as proclaimed by Jesus. This is Faith.