

THURSDAY OF WEEK 12

Gospel: Matthew 7:21-29

NOT ENOUGH TO SAY “LORD, LORD”

For weeks we have been reading from the Sermon on the Mount and today we have read the final section of that great Sermon. There are three activities that followers of Jesus engage in:

- speaking,
- listening and
- doing; and all three are important.

When we gather for public prayer we speak; we call on Jesus as “Lord, Lord.”

Then both at public worship and at times of private prayer we listen; we hear the word of the Lord and let it sink into our hearts.

Speaking and listening will always be central to the life of a disciple. However, Jesus adds that ***unless our speaking and our listening overflow into good actions*** their value is undermined.

It is not enough to say “Lord, Lord,” — for we must also do the will of the Father in heaven.

It is not enough to listen to the words of Jesus, we need to act on them.

We must act in harmony with what we say and what we hear.

When our speaking to God and our listening to his word bear fruit in good works, imitating the life of Jesus, then our lives are solidly grounded, like a house built on rock.

Today’s gospel promises that if our words to God and God’s words to us shape our attitudes and behaviour, we can more easily withstand any storms that come our way in life..