

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

HOW SERIOUS


 A young man in a green hoodie and a young woman in a green and black striped shirt are standing next to large, bold green letters that spell out 'AMM?'. The man is looking thoughtful, and the woman is smiling with her hands clasped.

The first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy describes Moses telling the people of Israel that God will send a prophet who shall speak exactly what God has "put into his mouth". Those who do not listen to the word of God, as spoken through the prophet, will be answerable to God. The prophet who claims to speak in God's name but says even a single word that is not commanded by God or who speaks in the name of other gods, will die. Basically, God is reminding His people that He is extremely serious about what He says and He expects the people to listen to, and obey what He says. Anyone who views God or treats His word in a frivolous manner will face the consequences.

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WEEKLY SCRIPTURE VERSE:

If you love me,
you will keep my
commandments.

(John 14: 15)

Jesus came into the world with full of authority that even the unclean spirits obey him. The unclean spirit, who possessed the man and professed: "I know who you are: the Holy One of God" is prevented immediately by Jesus from speaking further: "Be quiet! Come out of him! Jesus makes it clear that he did not come into the world to speak frivolous words or to do whatever he pleased. His intention is a serious one, that is, to carry out completely the will of his Father in heaven. For the authority of Jesus comes from the Father and is not based on a high or lofty status, wealth or academic qualifications. To the people, this is what sets him apart from other religious teachers of the time.

Faith is a serious matter and should not to be treated in a frivolous way. This is why Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, puts forward a proposal that those who are unmarried continue to remain so in order that they may give their "undivided attention to the Lord". Here, it is not a question about which state of life - unmarried or married - is better or more pleasing to the Lord. Instead, it is about **"how seriously do I take my relationship with God and obey His word"**. This is a question put to us all regardless of our state of life - single, married, married but single again, priesthood or religious.

If you have been treating your relationship with God and His word in a frivolous manner, then you should listen to the word of God as spoken through the psalmist: *"O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts"*. It is a call to repent and do whatever is necessary to change your ways. It is time to take your faith seriously. ✚