

AUGUST 30, 2015



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-8

PSALM 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

JAMES 1:17-18, 21B-22, 27

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

REFLECTION

Have you ever had to babysit a little kid who has no sense of fear? You know, the kind that will run right into the street or tumble down the stairs without even slowing down? Maybe you were that kid. Those kids need rules: stay away from the street, don't go near the stove, no climbing trees. And they need careful guidance from someone who will watch over them with love and patience. Imagine God as that loving, patient parent. And maybe Moses is the babysitter reminding the kid, "Follow your parents' rules. They made the rules to keep you safe." The "Law" in the First Reading is a sign of God's love and care for his people. The conflict we see between Jesus and the religious leaders is about being true to what that Law really means. False piety doesn't matter. It's what is in our hearts that matters. Or as James puts it in our Second Reading today, "Humbly welcome the word that has taken root in you, with its power to save you."



"GO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE"

STEVE ANGRISANO
NCYC Unplugged

"We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need. The face of God for all to see!" The Mass calls us out into the world to make a difference! Listen to this popular song that is often used as a closing song at Mass. How are you called to make a difference?

NCYC Unplugged
[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=EQJ4TLRy1KI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQJ4TLRy1KI)

ACTION

The Letter of James recommends looking after those who are in need as a way to follow God's law. Don't just listen to it; act on it! Take some action to help someone in need. Visit someone who is lonely, or get food to someone who is hungry.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- James tells us to "act upon the Word." What are some ways you act upon the Word? What does "action" mean for you?
- Do you connect with God through service to others? "So close . . . as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call upon him." If ten is the "most powerful feeling you've ever had," and one is "no sense of God's presence at all," pick a number: How close do you feel to God right now?