

### Covenant Life

- Let us pray today for peace and protection for the many who live in the gulf coast area and are facing hurricane Ida.
- We had a blessed Gathering last Sunday. If you were unable to attend, you can listen to the audio [here](#), review the Word Gift summary [here](#), and read the transcript [here](#).
- Our next in-person Community Gathering will be Sunday of September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the MSMCS gym. We are currently meeting the second and fourth Sundays.
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - When I ponder my first decision to choose to attend prayer meetings at Bishop Lynch High School...it was the joy and love that I witnessed that prompted me to want to come back. Those I met were not afraid to fully live their faith. They sang, they praised God, they hugged one another... But it was more than just the proclamations...it seemed everyone was serving or doing something. Some were playing music, some were cleaning up, somewhere leading ministries... It just seemed like everyone was active in some way. Faith was alive.

I think this is what Paul was alluding to in his admonition to "*be doers of the word and not hearers only*" in the second reading today ([Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27](#)). It is one thing to check the boxes of our obligations as Christians but an entirely different one to be characterized as a "doer of the Word". We know these people, those who never seem to tire doing what is right and just. Serving, serving, and serving some more. Paul is asking us to be counted in such company.

So how might we respond? We might focus on our practical limitations and assume this word is for others...or we could pause and pray and turn to His Word and allow Him to speak to us. This is certainly the first step in being a doer of the Word, we do need to hear it or else we might do a "good" thing that we come up with rather than cooperating with what He is about. What is critical in our response, however, is that we go beyond just hearing to doing. Finding a practical response

to what the Holy Spirit gives us. Our response will be as unique as we are, but we should discern with our pastoral care person and act. God might ask us to serve Him by loving or caring for another. God might ask us to build Community in a practical way. God might want us to reach out to someone in need, the poor, someone lonely.

Are we characterized as a doer?

One of the simplest ways to respond to this challenge is to be an encourager...someone that is committed to seeing the best in others and has the courage to proclaim it. This is one of the greatest blessings of Community. We love and encourage one another. Jesus referred to the power of speech in the Gospel today ([Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)). When pressured by the Jewish leaders about dietary laws Jesus responded with *"Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."* Jesus is asking us to be most concerned about what we say. We have the power to build up or tear down. We have a hundred opportunities a day to be a doer of the word through our commitment and resolve to be active lovers and encouragers, focusing on the positives in those we live with, interact with, and meet. Being a doer of the Word is not just about organizing a bible study, being a pastoral care person, bringing a meal, but also in the day-to-day interactions of a smile, a hug, an encouraging word. May we each and every day maximize the times we put these words into practice and love the one we are with, love those in need, love our Sisters and Brothers in the Lord, love those we meet who do not know His love. This is what drew me to Community..."see how they love one another".

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I want to be a doer of Your Word. Bring opportunities for me to respond. Give me insight on how to encourage and love those around me. Give me the courage to speak love. Bring me ideas to put this into practice today and every day. Amen."*

God bless,  
David