Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Psalm 15

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

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

Evil thoughts – check

Unchastity – check

Theft – check

Adultery – check

Greed – check

Licentiousness – check

Envy – check

Blasphemy – check

Arrogance – check

Folly – check

What a check list. And it all comes from within people, from their hearts. All these evils come from within and they defile.

“This people honors me with their lips,

But their hearts are far from me.”

When will the world again say to us “This nation is truly a wise and intelligent people”? When we take to heart what Moses told us. He said to the people: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and the decrees I am teaching you to observe, that you may live…”

We, as the People of God, must let God’s commands reach our hearts. Humbly welcome the word that is planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep one unstained by the world.

If we care for the widows and orphans, who are the least persons of power among us, that means we care for everyone.

Here at BMT, our hearts are in the right place. We care for everyone, the young and the old. Just last Sunday at the parish picnic, we had a station for children who, among having suckers and bouncing in the bounce house, made little letters for our parishioners who are homebound. We want to make sure the hearts of our young ones are in the right place.

Some of our hearts have turned to stone. Most of our hearts hold Jesus dear and our actions show the world that we are still the People of God. Our religion will be purified and the world will take note that we Catholics will give evidence of God’s wisdom. Once again the world will look at you and say, “This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.”

We love our Church as long as our hearts are in the right place.