

March 6, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

THE CLOSENESS OF THE LORD, OUR GOD

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

Moses spoke to the people and said: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the LORD, my God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land you are entering to occupy. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today? However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children's children."

Reflection

The LORD's "statutes and decrees," i.e. laws, are never meant to be burdensome. Rather they are supportive guides leading the way to wholeness/holiness. The point of observing these God-given directives is to live a long life. Moses teaches these laws as God has directed him. One result of the people living these "statutes and decrees" is their witness to the other nations who see them as intelligent, wise, and just because they follow their God's life-giving laws. Both the laws and the people's fidelity to them reflect their God's greatness who, through "statutes and decrees," has invited the people to a deeper relationship between them and with their Creator.

There is finally the caution "not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen." So the instruction continues to teach your children and your children's children. Teaching the children is emphasized -- passing the laws down to successive generations of Israel dedicated to the LORD. The law cannot be confined to one time or place. It must expand and deepen the lives of those who recognize God as their life.



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For Pondering

- Which of the laws/Commandments challenge your fidelity these days? In what ways do you deal with that challenge?
 - How do the laws/Commandments renew and strengthen your relationship with your Creator, with creation?
 - How have you managed to teach the laws/Commandments?
 - Find some time to sit down with Moses and reflect with him about God's laws/Commandments.
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For Prayer

*Gracious LORD God,
I am grateful for your life-giving laws that I share
with my sisters and brothers.
Give me the insight to live a lawful life that enriches and sustains.
Through your life in me,
may all the “nations” marvel at your close, comforting presence!
Amen.*

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