

Notes on Lectionary Readings - MARCH 1-7, 2021.

Acting Out of Faith

Read - Exodus 20:1-17. Just as God established covenants with Noah and Abraham and their descendants, so did God renew the relationship with the Israelites by giving them the law. Obedience to the law was not the means of earning God's love, but a response of love by the people to the love God had already shown them.

Situation - the Ten Commandments.

Questions -: How do you keep God as the central focus of your life? What draws you away from that focus?

Prayer -Holy God help us with discipline. May our actions and inactions point to a desire to do Your will in this world. May we be resolved in our decisions for a pure and holy life, so that all who know us, will see your love in all that we are and do. Amen.

Read Psalm 19.The psalmist understands that God's law creates a cause for rejoicing, for it is more valuable than gold.

Theme - both God's creation and His word reveal His greatness.

Questions - In what ways do you experience God's laws as "sweeter ... than honey"? When do you find yourself trying to resist God's laws?

Prayer - Abundant God, we pray that our words and actions speak to Your greatness and boldly proclaim how wonderful You are. Amen.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Situations in which some had distorted the worship of God. They considered themselves too good for the gospel (1 Corinthians),

Situation - Christ the wisdom and power of god.

Questions - What does it mean to you that "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom"?

Prayer – Dear Lord, Grant us the courage to seek truth and answers, especially when we do not understand. Grant us patience to be graceful when we meet others who interpret scripture differently than we do and may all your people together find your truth. Amen

Read John 2:13-22. People who had violated the covenant by altering proper worship for the sake of profit

Situation - Jesus encounters belief and unbelief from the people. He clears the temple.

Questions - How do you respond to Jesus' anger and actions in this reading? Do his actions fit with the way you generally picture Jesus?

Prayer - Merciful God forgive us when we make excuses to avoid change. Help us to know Your still small voice so that we do not get caught up waiting for a sign. Amen.