

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 8/24/21

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord)

Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

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

GOSPEL:

- Those watching Jesus are observing external rules. These have reasons, but could they have been paying attention to something else?
- What is the significance of the washing? Could there be more than one reason?
- The Pharisees draw them to look at the traditions of the ancestors (some of this is human as opposed to inspired Tradition we speak of - what is the difference?)
- Human precepts as doctrine. How do you know if it is human precepts or true doctrine?
- What is Jesus getting at with the discussion of what comes from outside? What is trying to focus them on?
- How do these things come from within? Do we see the reasons behind our sins as coming from ourselves, or do we blame others? When is there a legitimate influence from outside?
- Where is Jesus trying to put the focus and attention.

FIRST READING:

- Moses communicates the statutes and decrees of God. Following the Lord leads to prosperity in the land. If the land is a prefiguring of the kingdom of heaven ... what are the deeper implications?
- Do not add or subtract from the decrees of the Lord. So those who have added are not following the law itself. How do we make “adjustments” to God’s law to suit our needs?
- Observing the law is evidence of wisdom and intelligence.
 - If God is so close - it’s a bit ignorant and “dumb” to not follow Him. Do we see our following of the Lord as an act of good sense and judgement, or merely an obligation?
- God’s law is just - the other nations will look at it and marvel at how well put together it is. Do we recognize how well put together our faith is? Do we let that guide our judgement?

SECOND READING:

- All giving and every good gift comes from God? How? How does this work with something that one person gives to another?
- Info about God: No alteration or shadow caused by change. Powerful identifier.
- Welcome the word of truth planted in you. This could be mental ... or even maybe a baptismal reference.
- Notice that he says that true religion must also care for others.

—Closing Prayer