



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

THIRD WEEK OF Lent – WEDNESDAY Deuteronomy 4: 5-9

Keeping the Law...One of the historic dangers of the Gospel of Grace was that some heretical movements saw it as an invitation to Antinomianism – ignoring the laws of God. One medieval movement – The Heresy of the Free Spirit – declared that, under the guidance of the spirit of love, they were punishing their sinful bodies with regular debauchery in order to free up their immortal souls. An ever popular reversion to the ecstatic religions of paganism where the cult prostitutes did a roaring trade.

Of course Grace affords no such destructive licence. The Laws of God, far from being restrictive – thou shalt not etc – are truly liberating. They are, the word for commandments, ‘targets’ at which we aim, the focus of our right living. An abolition of law, in human terms, does not lead to freedom but rather to chaos and destruction, fragmentation and alienation. Lawlessness is the characteristic of ‘the Badlands’ – the territory of the Devil. St Augustine made the heart of the Law easy for us to understand and obey. ‘LOVE GOD.....and do what you like.’

It was, of course, a simplistic riff on Jesus two great commandments:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets’.

When ,as a society we think we know better than God – as in the abrogation of the respect for the family or the destruction of the special place of the Sabbath in the honouring of both God and Man, we should not be surprised at the civilisational ruin that flows therefrom. *Circumspice.*

And, as we refresh our memory and hear Jesus remind us of the importance of the Laws of God, we hear Moses, at the end of this passage, remind us: *'By the way, don't forget to tell your children and grandchildren all this.'*

Spiritual exercise: Read the Ten Commandments: Exodus 20 v 1 -20 and choose the one that leaps out at you to reflect on today.