

## **Lent Wednesday Week 3 Year A**

First Reading: Dt 4:1, 5-9;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20;

Gospel Reading: Mt 5:17-19.

**Theme:** Following the Law is a Blessing

In the first reading, Moses reminded the Israelites of the great treasure they have in their laws and customs; a treasure full of “wisdom and understanding” to lead safely to the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus Christ made radical modifications to the Law of Moses so as to develop and render it complete. Jesus showed that true observance of the Law must be in the heart and mind.

Jesus wants to purify our hearts and renew our minds so that we can freely choose to love and do what is right, just, and wise. As Jesus indicated in today’s Gospel, the law of LOVE does not abolish but goes far beyond the Law of Moses. Jesus revealed the reason and spirit of the Law. In other words, the reason for doing or NOT doing certain things should be on account of LOVE for God and an effort not to lead other people into error.

For example, during the season of Lent we are encouraged to do ‘penitential acts.’ It is helpful to remember that these acts do not stand on their own. Our penitential acts have meaning only if they deepen our relationship with God and our neighbor especially in this current crisis. In all things, our ultimate guide is the law of love. Following this law is a blessing and makes us great in the eyes of God.

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