

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Times

August 29th, 2021

With the Book of Deuteronomy, we have the Civil and Religious Laws the Israelites are to understand and follow. It holds the structure and behaviors of the People of God. In today's readings the Gospel of Mark calls upon the Book of Deuteronomy as a source and base of the Hebrew nation. Hence with today's readings Mark speaks about the source of Laws which the Hebrew people must follow.

Moses and here the Gospel of Mark defines the Laws of God which are defined and given us by Moses. He refers to Deuteronomy 4: "Now Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you.... Observe them carefully for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations..."

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus clearly defines the laws from God which come from within the heart, and the human laws which the followers "honor with their lips but are far from" God.

I wonder which laws we follow, those which we can written down, and use as beating rods or measuring sticks? Or the laws that comes from the heart of God. Do we know the difference?