

Schedule of Bible Reading for Lent 2012

“Jesus and the Elephant Man”

Week 4 – March 19-23

Monday 3/19 Exodus 20:1-17

The Lord delivers the Ten Commandments through Moses to a people lost in the wilderness. At a time when so adversity was present, why would God give more restriction and regulation? Was the law intended to be a “kill joy?” If the law is a gift, then why are we so reluctant to embrace it?

Tuesday 3/20 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

After the Deuteronomy telling of the Ten Commandments, follows an instruction about where to keep the law. It is in our consciousness today to keep things “in our heart.” Though we are instructed to keep the law in our heart, where else are we to keep it? How are we to live out a daily awareness today? Where would you think to bear the law in your life? What does this text imply about the responsibility we have to our children?

Wednesday 3/21 Matthew 5.17-48

In this text, Jesus tells us not one letter of the law will pass from the law until all is accomplished. This text seems to be most often quoted when New Testament teachings are used to “defang” Old Testament law. What does it mean to “fulfill” the law? Does this change the way we submit ourselves to God? There are specific warnings to those who teach. As some of us are Sunday School, Bible Study, or Home Group “teachers” does this affect how we read this text? What does this text mean by warning our righteousness (unless greater than Pharisees and scribes) will not allow us entry into the kingdom of heaven?

Thursday 3/22 Romans 8: 1-8

This passage seems to change the relationship between man and law, or does it? Romans is often used as a cornerstone for contemporary understandings of faith and Christianity. Can the relationship between Jesus and humankind be summed up in the first eight verses of Romans 8? How do these verses affect the way we read the texts from earlier this week? Is there a freedom provided by this description of our relationship with law not found elsewhere in scripture?

Friday 3/23 Mark 3:1-6

Again, we see Jesus confronting the Pharisees over what can and cannot be done on the Sabbath. Though not the only reason, it is indicated from this moment they immediately began to conspire against Jesus. How do you celebrate the Sabbath? Do we, too, have freedom to heal on the Sabbath? If Sabbath is created for humankind and not humankind for Sabbath, how do we take advantage of such a gift? As our schedules compress our lives to full capacity, does it ever seem a full day of rest would be a true gift from God?