

Today we hear about the law how appropriate in NSJ (but here its Torah)

For Jews the Mosaic law is sacred, divinely inspired, of great import – WHY?

- We live earthly lives and Torah reminds us of the Sacred – that which is divine
- So that we can bring the Sacred into our earthly activity sanctify it with the divine
- This Old Covenant truth is going to be affirmed by JC in the New Covenant too LUP

DT - The book of DT is rooted in the law proclaimed on Mt Sinai – it explains law, it presents the theme of covenant – Moses emphasises God's claim on the people for obedience, loyalty and love (as their part of the covenant).

THIS passage contains the basic principles of the whole Mosaic law: READ IT

Since the Lord alone is God we should love Him with and undivided heart

Now then – we sin and when we do, we show our hearts are divided

We have the law (the 10) we know the law

Yet I want what I want - Faithfulness or Adultery (well . . .) Truth or lie (well . . .)
Divided Hearts

DT calls us to covenant, to undivided hearts and that is possible *with GOD's help*

THUS PS 18 “I love you Lord, my strength” (what's my strength – the Lord Himself)

READ IT – Look how God is described – my strength, my rock, fortress, deliverer, my strength, rock of refuge, shield, stronghold, - with God faithfulness is possible

HEB with God an undivided heart is possible

With JC we have a new High Priest – not like traditional one that offers sacrifice year after year for sin, over and over and over. JC offers himself as 1x sacrifice for all sin, for all men, for all time – perfect and forever READ IT

GOSPEL - Jesus is asked what was the greatest commandment by a Scribe

- Let me tell you what a Scribe did
 - A Scribe transcribed the law – no Xerox, no MSWord, longhand
 - All day, with all the laws, letter by letter by letter
 - Since it was the Law of God – it had to be perfect – any error, its scrap
 - Hundreds and hundred of laws, letter by letter, scroll after scroll
- He comes to Jesus “What is the greatest commandment”
 - JC responds by quoting DT – the first reading
 - Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength
 - Then JC does something radical
 - JC also adds a line from Lev “Love your neighbor as yourself”
- When we think of the commandments we think ‘Thou shalt not’
 - All of our laws are about what we should NOT do
 - Don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t cheat, don’t ...
 - Jesus answers with no ‘Thou shall not’ but with ‘Thou shall’...
 - You should “Love God and Love those made in HIS image”
 - WE ARE ALL MADE IN IMAGE & LIKENESS OF GOD
 - When we love others, we’re loving people who are unique reflections of the presence of God
 - People would ask Mother Theresa why she cared for the poor
 - How can you love God and not care for His image
 - God doesn’t expect us all to move to Calcutta
 - but God *does* expect us to reverence His presence in each other
 - God knows our hearts & God loves us
 - He doesn’t want us bogged down in a quagmire of laws
 - But He does expect us to obey the 1 law of loving Him
 - & by loving those made in His image – we love Him