

**Thursday, March 9, 2017 - Day 67 – Deuteronomy 10-12, Psalm 56, Luke 14**

Laws and the Spirit of God at Work in Us.

Today's readings reflect that challenges we all face as followers of the God who has given us directions or laws and God's desire for us to live in relationship with God.

The passage we read from Deuteronomy reminds us that God has given laws to live by. God has given us laws that can help ensure that we are walking the right path and the good that will come for us when we are walking in God's ways. Ten Commandments to live by and general rules about taking care of the least among us give us God's structure for our lives as individuals and as God's community. When we follow in God's ways, God will bless us. That is the promise offered in the Book of Deuteronomy.

Life being what it is, with changes and changes and difficulties coming our way, even when we are trying to live by God's law suggests that it is not always so clear cut. Bad things happen to good people. Struggles come our way and we can even allow the laws to take God's place and the living relationship with God that God offers all of us.

In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that the laws are not God. Jesus teaches that the laws are our guide, but that the relationships with one another and with God surpass adherence to the law. So, when someone is in need, doing work on the Sabbath is not only acceptable, but God's preference. We are called to hold our following the law lightly, in humility to God and one another. We cannot earn our way into God's good grace, but are already in God's graces and are invited to God's banquet deserving or not. And, finally, our relationship with God, our following of Jesus is the first and foremost aim in life, even when it comes with a cost.

By The Rev. W. Frank Allen