

No Law, No Life

‘There [was] a cartoon in the *Hong Kong Tatler* that show[ed] Moses as he comes down from the top of the mountain with the tablets in his hand. He’s reporting to the children of Israel and says, “It was hard bargaining—we get the milk and honey, but the anti-adultery clause stays in”.’

This joke is funny precisely because of its ludicrousness. The circumstances it presupposes are, while imaginable, are nevertheless totally impossible. We can not negotiate with God on anything. He’s God. He’s the Creator. He created us. We have no rights at all. No, not a one. He is the Supreme Commander. He gives the orders. We obey. That is our purpose in life—to obey each and every word that comes from the mouth of God. No ifs, ands, or buts. Every last breath we take is because He has willed it. We do not live another second but at His pleasure. We are as insignificant compared to God as a single atom in the most distant body in space placed next to the entirety of the universe. We can’t even imagine a single atom in the most distant place. We can’t identify it, even if we could somehow go to it. We don’t know what it is, whether it’s even there. And so are we compared to the greatness, the vastness, the infinity of God. Yet. God is love. And He made us because of His love. And so He

not only knows each and every one of us. He knows each and every hair on our heads. Of every person on earth, now and in the past and in the future. And He cares. To Him, each and every one of us is vitally important. It's as if He only created one human being in all time—You! So important are you that even if you were the only person in all the universe, He would come and give His life for you. That is how much He loves you, yes, even you!

Now, most of us these days, in our ignorance and innate sin of pride, somehow imagine that we have a leg to stand on to be able to make bargains with God. How many of us have prayed something along the lines of if God will do something or other, then we'll do something or other for Him? Or if we do something or other, then God somehow owes us something in return? Such kind of thinking is inherently evil. It is sin. But God puts up with it. He condescends to hear us, and plays along with our pretenses and conceit. For He knows His purposes for us, and He will bring them to pass regardless of how important we think ourselves.

Our Old Testament reading today from Deuteronomy reminds the children of Israel of how they received God's law, His commandments. And the blessings of obedience—the “milk and honey”—and the consequences of disobedience—the “curses”. God's words here may seem severe and harsh. But in view of how the future would unfold, as Israel not only broke a few of the Ten Commandments, but all of them. At the same time! It would seem that God's words weren't harsh enough! Maybe if He'd

been even more “gruff” and “threatening” the people would have listened and obeyed. But no. They would still have gone astray. How quickly they forgot their early commitments, pledges and promises, and allowed themselves to be seduced by the bling, baubles and glamour of the world. And in so doing, the “curses” came upon them. Why? Was it because God was just waiting for the people to mess up, so He could get out His switch and spank them, to punish them to get them back into line? No. No. No.

God gave the law, the rules, the guidelines, the instructions, for living life on this earth, in order that things would go well. But violating those rules results in exposing ourselves to the evils in the world. Which is why the closer we adhere to God’s commands, the easier it is for us to make our way through this life. Easier doesn’t mean that things will go cushy for us as the world defines the “good life”. Because the world’s good life is not really good at all. Only insofar as the good in this world is derived from the knowledge and reverential respect for God, His righteousness, His way, and His love, are things we experience in this world actually good. When we take our cues from the world, and its definition of what’s good, then we will consign ourselves to death. Eternal death. Eternal separation from God.

Conversely, the closer we follow God’s law, God’s rules, the more our earthly life takes on the characteristics and qualities of Heaven, of Eternal life, that is blessed, blissful union with Him Who is Life itself, Who is all in all, Who is “I Am”, always was and

always will be. His law was given so that we would have life, abundantly, avoid the pitfalls, bypass the mistakes, and forego the dead ends of living on this earth. His laws would allow us to know right from wrong, good from bad, life from death. He would not have been a good Father if He had not given us His laws. For without them, how would we know the difference?

But we have an ornery streak. Seems we're just born with it. Every last one of us. And as plain and simple as God's Ten Commandments are, we're just constantly trying to find ways to get around them. God's law sets up the necessary structure for life on earth. Go outside those bounds and there is only chaos, darkness, destruction and death. But the devil insinuates God can't be trusted. We have a hard time believing God. Seems we have to find out for ourselves. We don't believe until we see first hand the results of doing what we want. Then it's too late to return to live within the safety of God's law. Indeed, in one aspect or other, we all want to test "the limits" and go past them. How exhilarating! Well, so it seems for a few minutes, a few years, a few decades. We can't ever find our way back. But with Christ Jesus, all things become possible. If we give our lives back to Him, all is taken care of again.

So the more we obey and live according to God's laws, the more blessed are our lives. And so was America. Truly, the most blessed of all nations on earth. Our laws were based on God's laws. Our founding fathers were Spirit led to set up the most en-

lightened, righteous system of government ever conceived, becoming the example for most modern governments. Our Constitution presupposes belief, deference and obedience to God's law. The founders explicitly stated that it would not work if the people were not God-fearing. And it's no longer working. Because too many people no longer fear God. Many's rebellion goes far beyond that. They don't even acknowledge that He exists. And even if they do, they somehow fantasize that they could stand up to Him and survive. We're seeing this everywhere we look these days. It used to be that people would try to hide their sin, put on a facade that they somehow still believed in God. No more. The sin is ever more flagrant and blatant. The wicked screech their blasphemies at the top of their lungs, demanding that everyone join in with their lawless atrocities.

Perhaps the worst yet to be perpetrated upon America happened last Thursday when a former president was declared guilty of felonious crimes. The jury's decision was not unexpected, but decent people had hoped that the evidence and rational logic would prevail. The entire affair was an exercise of lawlessness. Fabricating crimes, playacting a free and impartial trial, the prosecution deluded themselves that they were furthering the cause of justice. In breaching beyond recognition any semblance of genuine justice, they are consigning themselves to face the music of the Supreme Judge of Heaven, a truly terrifying prospect. When they fall into God's hands, it'll be too late. Squirming, fleeing

every which way, there'll be no escape. Seeing their puny rebellion from afar, God sits in Heaven and laughs at their taunts. For God's purpose will not be denied. For God is working His purpose out. In perfect timing. He's not worried about anything. He's not in a hurry. When His purpose fully unfolds, the entire earth will be filled with His glory as the waters cover the sea.

Thus, those of us who have submitted to God, who have given our lives to Lord Jesus, who walk each day holding His hand, need to stop looking at the turmoil in today's world. We'll be just fine. Oh sure, there'll be difficulties and catastrophes coming to America and the earth this year and next. But whatever come up, we will be safe and secure in the Lord. For He has exchanged His death on the cross for what we all deserved, and given us His eternal life. Do not let the world's atrocities and mounting depravities, shake your peace that surpasses understanding. For our peace comes not from the world. It never did. It only comes from God. Believe it. Pray it. Talk to Him. More importantly, listen to Him. Withdraw from the world's noise, din and distractions, to the quiet place within your soul and let Holy Spirit speak, teach, and show you the way to proceed in every decision and juncture of your life. Seek His wisdom in all things. Though it often seems the opposite of what the world claims is wise, God's way is always best. Remember. Lean not on your own understanding, but seek God's wisdom in all things. For He loves you. He really does!

