

STILL THE GOD WHO COMES

We are watching Alpha male after Alpha male crash and burn right before our eyes. One day these men were among the most powerful in our culture making millions of dollars and exhibiting tremendous influence on the lives of many and suddenly, they are all done. These men became so powerful and then so full of themselves that they began to believe that the rules and laws of human life did not apply to them. They began to do things they knew they shouldn't do. Why? Because they could. They exaggerated their self-importance. They made themselves into little gods. THOU SHALT NOT PLACE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME. Second commandment. Thirty-two hundred years old. Seems to still apply.

Many who depended on them have now lost their jobs. Hundreds of ordinary folks who worked for them or around them or on the shows or movies. All gone too. Why? Inappropriate, improper and unwanted sexual contact foisted onto women who were hard-pressed to resist or challenge. Some married. Some unmarried. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY. Sixth commandment. Thirty-two hundred years ago. Seems to still apply. Most people think it does. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S SPOUSE. Ninth Commandment.

Even at the highest branches of political power people manufacture and deliver what they expect others to believe as true but which is really a lie. Eventually the truth comes out. More mighty powerful people fall. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS. Or commit perjury; lying under an oath to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God. The eighth commandment. Seems to still apply.

We may not be thinking about the commandments all that much but they really do guide us as we navigate through life and decide what is the right way to live and the wrong way to live. Our God gave us those commandments. Our God came down to our earth and made sure that Moses delivered them to the Chosen People for all people. We needed those commandments. We still need those commandments. Or we cannot live in harmony with each other and with other peoples.

Our God is no distant God. Our God is not a God who is indifferent to our lives here on earth. Our God is a God who comes to us, He came to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of God in our human flesh. We humans killed this Jesus. He rose from the dead. Bursting into fullness of life. He returned to his Father who had sent him on this mission to earth. Together they sent their own Holy Spirit into the world into each soul that opens in faith to this divine Spirit. Jesus has promised to come again at the end of the world. He will come as Judge of the living and the dead.

But Jesus also comes every time we summon him. Every time we gather for Eucharist and led by one of his ordained priests who repeats what Jesus said at the Last Supper, every time, we summon him like that, He comes. He is coming this very day. Again. Very soon. Jesus

always answers the summons. He comes because he wants to come. He comes because he cares. But he doesn't enter unless we want him to enter, unless we ask him to enter, unless we make him welcome in our lives, in our relationships, in our marriages, in our families.

The Lord is very respectful of our freedom and will never force his way into our lives. God comes to those who want him to come, who ask him to come, who desire his presence in their lives. And God will do for us everything we need him to do for us to end up in communion with him forever if we but ask. There are different ways to live in this world. Recently a morality play, almost like a giant soap opera has been taking place in our country. There actually are some moral lessons here for anyone who is paying attention. But the reality is the God who comes comes to those who ask him to. That is why you are here today at this Eucharist. Know what you believe. Know what you are doing.