

## SERIES B TEXTS

### Lectionary 22

#### Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that **you** may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of **your** ancestors, is giving **you**. <sup>2</sup>**You** must neither add anything to what I command **you** nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD **your** God with which I am charging **you**. <sup>6</sup>**You** must observe them diligently, for this will show **your** wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before **you** today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that **your** eyes have seen nor to let them slip from **your** mind all the days of **your** life; make them known to **your** children and **your** children’s children.

#### Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? <sup>2</sup> Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; <sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; <sup>4</sup> in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; <sup>5</sup> who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

#### James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup>**You** must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save **your** souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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### Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about **you** hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>**You** abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of **you**, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”