

February 28, 2010

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15: 5 -12, 17 – 18

Philippians 3: 17 – 4:1

Luke 9: 28b – 36

The Old Testament reading today is about the covenant that God made with Abraham – that his descendants shall be as numerous as the stars (v. 5). Abram's family tree passed through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers and then to all of Israel.

The Book of Genesis – after the story of Adam and Eve is really a soap opera about a very dysfunctional family. Four generations of Abraham's family dynasty are charted, the foibles exposed and all the dirty laundry, hung out in public for humankind to see. However, these first stories begin to lay the groundwork for a moral response from the people with God as the director. Genesis is the beginning of ethics! The responses to these moral issues are always sealed with a Covenant between God and humankind – and initiated by God. (Summary idea from The Genesis of Ethics by Burton Visotzky – Crown Publishers 1996)

But the really big picture is that from the beginning of the Old Testament, to the very end of the New Testament... these great stories in **scripture ultimately highlights "moral education and moral truth"** leading to positive moral behavior. Catholic Social Justice thinking is about love and our moral response to a world that needs help.

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