

Thoughts on the Daily Word

17th Week of Year. Friday 1st August. Readings: Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34-37; Psalm: 80; Matthew 13:54-58.

Leviticus is the story about holiness or the ability of human beings to be godlike. Today we have what became the principal celebrations of the Israelite story. They begin with Passover and end with Tabernacles or the celebration of the journey through the desert to the Promised Land. You might say that the Exodus story is interrupted in order to set in memory the significance of the journey and its focus on God as the source of the story. The Book itself was adapted by the priestly writers over centuries in order to fix the events firmly in contemporary life. It has its strengths and weaknesses. Its strength is that the story is still rooted in our common Judeo/Christian life, its weakness is that it can become Law, or regulations, rather than a lived relationship. Hence the Christian transformation, not rejection, of this story. These celebrations are seen as fulfilled in Christ and in us who share his Body and Risen life.