



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 30, 2017

Scripture

Exodus 32: 7-14

The LORD said to Moses,

"Go down at once to your people
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt,
for they have become depraved.

They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them,
making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it,
sacrificing to it and crying out,

'This is your God, O Israel,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"

The LORD said to Moses,

"I see how stiff-necked this people is.

Let me alone, then,

that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them.

Then I will make of you a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD, his God, saying,

"Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people,
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt

with such great power and with so strong a hand?

Why should the Egyptians say,

'With evil intent he brought them out,
that he might kill them in the mountains
and exterminate them from the face of the earth'
Let your blazing wrath die down;
relent in punishing your people.
Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
and how you swore to them by your own self, saying,
'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky;
and all this land that I promised,
I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'"
So the LORD relented in the punishment
he had threatened to inflict on his people.

Our Scripture Reflection

God had every right to be furious with His people. After rescuing them from bitter slavery in Egypt and promising them a new life in the Promised Land, they got impatient and turned in on themselves. They flaunted their infidelity before God. But God gave them a second chance. Why? Because He loves them pure and simple. God is offering you a chance to turn back to Him this Lenten day. Are you ready?

Food for your Journey

No one has expressed better the Catch-22 of the "more is better" philosophy than Paul Wachtel. If "more is better," then there can never be a sense of enough, no matter how much "more" one has, for there is always "more" needed to make life "better."

"In 1958, when economist John Kenneth Galbraith appropriately described the United States as the "Affluent Society," 9.5 percent of U. S. households had air conditioning, about four percent had dishwashers, and fewer than 15 percent had more than one car. By 1980, when Ronald Reagan's successful bid to replace Jimmy Carter was based on the widespread sense that people were suffering economically, the percentage of homes with air conditioning had quintupled, the percentage with dishwashers had increased more than 700 percent and the percentage with two or more cars had about tripled. Yet,

despite the astounding economic growth -- despite owning more of the gadgets, machines and appliances thought to constitute 'the good life' -- Americans felt significantly less well-off than they had 22 years before, polls showed."

--Wachtel, *The Poverty of Affluence: A Psychological Portrait of the American Way of Life* (Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1989), 11-14.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Forgive me of my sins and turn my wayward heart back to You. Amen.