

Year C - Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 8:2-11

'Let the person among you without sin be the first to throw a stone.'



Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives. Then early the next morning he went to the temple. The people came to him, and he sat down and started teaching them.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses brought in a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who was not her husband. They made her stand in the middle of the crowd. Then they said, "Teacher, this woman was caught sleeping with a man who is not her husband. The Law of Moses teaches that a woman like this should be stoned to death! What do you say?" They asked Jesus this question, because they wanted to test him and bring some charge against him. But Jesus simply bent over and started writing on the ground with his finger.

The crowd kept on asking Jesus about the woman. Finally, he stood up and said, "If any of you have never sinned, then go ahead and throw the first stone at her!" Once again he bent over and began writing on the ground.

The people left one by one, beginning with the oldest one in the crowd. Finally, Jesus and the woman were there alone. Jesus stood up and asked her, "Where is everyone? Isn't there anyone left to accuse you?" "No sir," the woman answered. Then Jesus told her, "I am not going to accuse you either. You may go now, but don't sin anymore."



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Forgive others as Jesus forgives us!



forgiveness

Introduction

- In today's gospel, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses were trying to find a way to trap Jesus. They brought before Jesus a woman who had broken one of their laws and asked Jesus what they should do with her. Instead of falling into their trap, Jesus' answer surprised them all, "If any of you have never sinned, then go ahead and throw the first stone at her!"
- When they all walked away, one by one, starting with the oldest person, the woman was left with Jesus who showed her his forgiveness and love.

Message

- Sometimes when we look at other people, and sometimes even when we look at ourselves, we notice every fault and wrong doing.
- Imagine what it would be like if we looked at other people and ourselves as God sees us, as God created us, through the eyes of love and compassion.
- God really knows us. God knows everything about us. Jesus shows us that God doesn't judge us. God sees each of us completely and forgives us our sins so that we can become the people God created us to be.
- We are often quick to let other people know when we see them do the wrong thing. Instead, let us follow Jesus' example and show love and mercy to other people. Being loved allows us to be free to change our ways and come closer to Jesus.

Discussion

- I wonder how the woman felt when she was brought to Jesus
- I wonder how the crowd felt
- How did Jesus respond?
- I wonder why the people began to leave
- What did Jesus say to the woman when they were alone?
- I wonder how the woman felt after Jesus spoke to her
- I wonder if feeling loved allows us to be free to change, rather than being judged
- I wonder what this tells us about how God feels when we make mistakes, even serious ones
- I wonder what this means for us and how Jesus expects us to treat other people

Peace

Love