

Light on Liturgy

2024-25 Weekend Liturgy Lesson #31



4/6 Gospel Reading: *John 8:1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him,

“Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.

But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them,

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,

“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

She replied,

“No one, sir.”

Then Jesus said,

“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

Gospel Reflection:

There are several lessons in this story. One is the point of scapegoating and crowd behavior – jumping on the bandwagon to blame someone for their sins, even when we also sin. Jesus disperses the crowd. He does not excuse her sin or say “it’s really ok.” Once the crowd has gone, he tells her to “go and do not sin any more. “

He is doing more than asking her to be good. He is giving her the grace to fight the temptations of sin. Just as He would tell the lame man to *get up and walk*, He is saying *go and sin no more*. He has given her mercy by very wisely sending her accusers away. He now gives her the grace and power to overcome her sin in the future.

- How does Jesus turn the crowd away from stoning the woman accused of sin? How could you change the tone of a group of your friends who are gossiping or ganging up on another?
- Have you ever noticed you often ask forgiveness for the same error or bad habit?
- This Lent as you attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reflect, not only on your past errors and failings, but also ask God for the grace “to sin no more.”