



April 7 2019//Year C Fifth Sunday of Lent//Lectionary: 36 Gospel JN 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 anymore.”

Spiritual Reflection: St. Augustine wrote: [“Sin is looking for the right thing in the wrong place.”](#) I believe Jesus is able to forgive the woman caught in adultery because He did not take her sin as a personal attack against Him. Instead He saw a woman who was hurt and injured because she looked for infinite love in finite human beings instead of in God. I have discovered in life that most people who have hurt me in life have not done it out of a malice against me but rather out of an ignorance because they have been focused on something else.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does reflecting on your own sinfulness make you more or less compassionate?
2. Why do you think that they were trying to trap Jesus in this way?
3. Have you ever gotten out of something that you should not have? Like a speeding ticket?
4. How do you think the woman felt after this incident?
5. How does this relate to the Cross when Jesus said “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing?”