

## ***Fifth Sunday of Lent by Father Dave –***

**(Isaiah 43: 16 – 21; Philippians 3: 8 – 14; John 8: 1 – 11)**

Have you ever been awake all night because you just could not “turn off your mind”? So many things for the upcoming day or week will keep us awake as we wonder – will I be able to get it all done and still have time for myself and the family? Perhaps the mind was remembering and replaying times of failure and sin? When you remembered something at work that you meant to do and forgot to do? Maybe the answer for that test question at school finally came to your mind and now you can’t do anything about the results of the exam. So many things we do during the course of the day can keep us awake.

One method for approaching this is to ask God – does the memory of this have something to teach me? If so, reflect on it and learn. If not, let it go. Sometimes that means writing it down and throwing it away or burning it. “Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! “ (Isaiah 43: 18 – 19). To live these words of God spoken through Isaiah (in today’s 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading), we must stop dwelling on past experiences, or we close the door to something new.

When sin has something to teach us, recall it and learn from it. Maybe that’s what Jesus asks the crowd to do when He writes in the sand. Maybe He refocused their attention away from the woman and back on themselves. Whatever Jesus wrote, the crowd put down their stones and walked away. By the way, where was the man who was a part of the so-called adulterous situation? Caught in the act, she wasn’t alone. So, where was the man? The law also required the man being stoned. (That’s another reflection for another time). In reading this Gospel passage, did you notice that no one condemns her? In fact – one by one they began to walk away. When sin condemns us, we can be comforted by the words of Jesus that He shares with the woman: “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

The Season of Lent keeps us focused on Jesus and seeing our lives in the light of His mercy. Forget what lies behind. The past is done. Perhaps we can learn from the past. And, by all means, press on forward to the life with Jesus that lies ahead. Remember not the events of the past unless they still have something to teach us. Come before Jesus and invite God’s healing love to transform us. Ask God to do something new in you.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World  
& for Peace

## ***BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody***

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUN LENT YR C...JN 8, 1-11**

4 They said to him, **“Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.**

5 **Now in the law, Moses commanded us** to stone such women. So what do you say?”

Scribes and Pharisees bringing a woman to Jesus with an **accusation of ‘caught in the very act of committing adultery.’** Not only that, they even cited the law on how to handle such sin and were in front of so many people to stand as witnesses and eventually judges also.

**IN CASE THIS WAS REALLY CAUGHT IN THE VERY ACT**, the first question to raise is **‘WHERE IS THE MAN AND WHY DO WE ONLY HAVE THE WOMAN HERE?’** Can we say **by virtue of verse 5, ‘the man is not at fault but only the woman’?**

If this is really caught in the very act, Scribes and Pharisees should have brought also the man...it takes two to tango so to speak. ***But why only the woman?*** Only the woman was presented as deemed sinner because of the following;

-at that time, woman was a nobody...their time was very patriarchal

-from the book of Genesis, it was the fault of the woman-Eve why man-Adam sinned

THUS, rather than accusing somebody-man, why don’t we accuse nobody-woman---***in the first place she is nobody?*** In this way, **we perpetuate the book of Genesis that it is always the fault of the woman.** OH NO GENDER ISSUE IS NOT A MODERN PROBLEM THEN!!!

Were they correct on verse 5? Answer...

**LEVITICUS 20, 10** If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, **both** the adulterer and the adulteress **shall be put to death.**

**Leviticus 20, 10 said both,** thus Scribes and Pharisees were wrong in their interpretation of the law. My goodness, they were called scholars of the law and **they forgot the term BOTH.** Can we call this bias...ignorance...intentional?

Thanks be to God, Jesus was really true to His word...**MT 5, 17** **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.**

Thanks be to God, Jesus Christ just liberated the woman from the ‘male dominated world’ and focused on equality of dignity...**Gen 1, 26** **Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness...27** **God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**