

April 3rd 2022 5th Sunday of Lent– Year C – John 8:1-11

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)
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In this week’s gospel we see the story of the woman accused of adultery. The Scribes and Pharisees brought her along to Jesus. This woman was guilty of sin and the Scribes and Pharisees were only too eager to judge her and make a show of her in front of Jesus. They were trying to score points against Jesus. They stated that Moses had ordered that this woman be stoned to death, Jesus showed great compassion to the woman and said "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let them be the first to throw a stone at her." When they heard this they all left beginning with the eldest . Jesus was left alone with the woman. He told her he did not condemn her and with compassion and understanding he said to her "go and sin no more."

When were the times in our lives we felt vulnerable and shamed because we were brought before others and our weaknesses pointed out to them? How did we feel? Who were the Jesus people who stood with us calmly so that we could find good space to create a positive life with new belief in ourselves?

Prayer:

Lord thank you for sending us leaders who like Jesus will stand with the weak and vulnerable against their oppressors not aggressively but calmly.

Forgive us Lord for the times that we did not look at people with respect and compassion just because they sinned instead of remembering that we too are sinners.

Help us Lord to stand with the weak and vulnerable especially when they are being put down in public places. Let us help them to realise that Jesus is waiting with love and compassion to walk with and forgive them.

