



# Daily Reflections

**April 7, 2019**

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## Scripture

### **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."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today's Gospel reading contains one of the most familiar and quoted stories in the entire Bible. And though we often cheer at the outcome of the "old religious hypocrites" getting easily shut down by the compassionate Jesus we are quick to miss one of the most parts of the story. Jesus tells the forgiven woman to "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Jesus wasn't asking for some kind of pay back from the woman. No, once rescued and forgiven she was now free to begin a new life devoid of sin. And that's the message of Calvary: We have been freed from our sins and given the freedom to sin no more. The question is, will we take Jesus up on His offer of an entirely new life?

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## **Food for your Journey**

The cross is not a clenched fist, it is a way of knowing. A grandmother was dancing with her grandson at a wedding. The grandson didn't know how to dance. The grandmother did. Sounds like a familiar generational pattern, doesn't it?

The boy had heard somewhere that if you just "cinch 'em up tight" they enjoyed the dance, even if you were faking half the steps.

The grandmother knew exactly what was going on as she glided across the floor, breathing more and more from the upper diaphragm. At first, she thought about improving the boy's steps. But out of love for him, and respect for his clumsy love for her, she just closed her eyes. "I dreamed," she said, "that he was a great dancer ... and I knew he wasn't just dancing with me." And, of course, he was. Love carries the day that skill can't. The grandmother could have been "right" and didactic and judgmental--instead she glided across the floor.

The cross doesn't condemn us so much as glide along with us, no matter how clumsily we move. The cross is actually permission to do what we don't know how to do. When we live by the cross, we don't have to be so afraid of making mistakes: Mistakes are actually part of the gateway to heaven.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, Freedom seems like such a precarious gift at times. At times I am concerned on how I might behave as a person freed from sin. The only way I can be sure that I will cherish the gift You gave me on Calvary is to be truly grateful and live closely to and in imitation of Your Son. Amen