



# Daily Reflections

## March 30, 2020

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### Scripture

#### **John 8:1-11**

And Jesus went unto mount Olivet.

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him, and sitting down he taught them.

And the scribes and the Pharisees bring unto him a woman taken in adultery: and they set her in the midst,

And said to him: Master, this woman was even now taken in adultery.

Now Moses in the law commanded us to stone such a one. But what sayest thou?

And this they said tempting him, that they might accuse him. But Jesus bowing himself down, wrote with his finger on the ground.

When therefore they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said to them: He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again stooping down, he wrote on the ground.

But they hearing this, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest. And Jesus alone remained, and the woman standing in the midst.

Then Jesus lifting up himself, said to her: Woman, where are they that accused thee? Hath no man condemned thee?

Who said: No man, Lord. And Jesus said: Neither will I condemn thee. Go, and now sin no more.

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### Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel reading is one of the most familiar and often quoted in the Bible. How many times have you heard Jesus' words repeated: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Jesus' words serve as a call to holiness for each of us. We need faithful witnesses to His Gospel. We need people who can firmly yet lovingly call the ignorant and confused, those who have chosen to live a way that runs contrary to the way of Jesus, back to the way of His Gospel.

What can we expect from such people? Pushback, rejection, ridicule, and even the accusation of hypocrisy. Our best defense? A life lived in humble holiness.

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## **Food for your Journey**

The Bible is somewhat silent on the actual term integrity. There are a handful of proverbs that mention integrity in certain translations (Proverbs 10:9; 11:3), but most of them are of the "it's good to have integrity because those without it are wicked" persuasion.

Scripture is filled, however, with passages urging integrity in believers -- it just talks about integrity without using that term. Think of the most famous New Testament commands for Christian living: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" ... (Galatians 5:22-25). Such a list is a command to live a life of the highest integrity, a life that brings goodness and blessings to all people.

In short, the Christian command to integrity is a command to both talk and walk in the way of Jesus. It's a life marked by love, compassion, mercy, justice and honoring God's call above everything else. It's the life spoken of in 1 Peter: "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (3:10-12). That definition of integrity calls us to walk in the path of Christ and to steer clear of hypocrisy.

--From Ryan Hamm, "Leading with integrity: How to live a life that matters," Christianity Today Website, August 20, 2013, [christianitytoday.com](http://christianitytoday.com). Retrieved March 5, 2015.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, From the moment of my Baptism, You called me to witness to the way of Your Gospel. So many in the world either no longer know You or they have chosen a way that runs contrary to Your way. Keep me faithful to You, keep me strong, courageous and loving. Through my living of Your Gospel may I draw people to You. Amen