

Lenten

Reflections



The Divine Intervention

April 3, 2017

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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Oh, how they thought they had Jesus trapped! They had heard of His compassion towards the sinners of life such as drunks, prostitutes and toll collectors but what about a despicable adulteress? The Law of Moses was quite clear on her punishment but what would Jesus say? His short and direct response to their question has echoed throughout history: "Let those without sin cast the first stone." And with that statement He disarmed and disjoined the crowd.

Food for your Journey

Norman Neaves of Oklahoma City told his church this story recently. A young father and his daughter were on a cruise, a "get-away" cruise because his wife/her mother had just died. Turning to one another to help relieve the pain, they huddled together on board ship. And on the deck of that ship the little girl asked her father: "Daddy, does God love us as much as Mommy did?"

At first, the father didn't know what to say. But he knew he couldn't side-step the question. Pointing out across the water to the most distant horizon, he said, "Honey, God's love reaches farther than you can see in that direction." Turning around he said, "And God's love reaches farther than you can see in that direction, too." And then the father looked up at the sky and said, "And God's love is higher than the sky, too." Finally he pointed down at the ocean and said, "And it's deeper than the ocean as well."

It was then that the little girl said the "darn'dest" thing. "Oh, just think, Daddy. We're right here in the middle of it all!"

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As You forgave the woman in today's Gospel, please cleanse my heart and forgive me of all my sins. Amen.