

St. Barnabas Homily. 5TH SUN LENT 04/07/2019 (John 8: 1-11) Yr C

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST FEEL LIKE TO BE EXPOSED?

***THE FEELING OF HAVING YOUR DEEPEST,, DARKEST SIN
REVEALED AND PARADED BEFORE OTHERS?***

**WE ALL HAVE DEEP SECRETS! BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE,,
JUST FOR A SECOND,, BEING MADE A PUBLIC SPECTACLE?**

**THE PRIVATE SHAME OF YOUR PERSONAL MATTERS,,
BEING DISPLAYED,, FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF
EMBARRASING,, OR,, HUMILIATING YOU?**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, *SOMETIMES,, ITS EASY FOR US,,
TO FIND FAULT IN OTHERS*,, ISN'T IT? PERHAPS ONE OF
THE REASONS FOR THIS,, IS: *THAT WHILE WE'RE BUSY,,
LOOKING AT OTHERS SHORT COMINGS,, AND WHILE WE'RE
BUSY MEASURING THEIR FAULTS,, IT TAKES OUR MINDS
OFF,, OUR OWN PROBLEMS AND FAULTS. IT MAY EVEN
MAKE US FEEL A LITTLE BIT SUPERIOR TO THEM!***

**IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE,, WE FIND JESUS,, WHO HAD JUST
CAME DOWN,, FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES,, TO THE
TEMPLE,, WHERE,, AS A RESPECTED RABBI,, HE BEGAN TO
RESUME HIS REGULAR TEACHING,, DURING HIS FINAL
EARTHLY WEEK.**

**AS JESUS SAT TO TEACH,, ALL OF THE SUDDEN,, HERE
COME THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES. THESE PROUD,,
RELIGIOUS,, BOISTEROUS LEADERS,, WERE DRAGING A
WOMAN IN FRONT OF JESUS,, STATING,, THAT SHE HAD
BEEN "*TAKEN HOLD OF*",, FOR BEING CAUGHT,, *IN THE ACT
OF ADULTRY*,, AND THEY WERE CARRYING ROCKS WITH
THEM,, IN THEIR HANDS.**

**THEY MADE THE WOMAN STAND,, IN THE MIDDLE,, AND
SHOUTED,, THAT THEY HAD CAUGHT HER IN THE ARMS OF
THE WRONG MAN,, ENJOYING THE PLEASURES OF SIN.**

HERE THEY ARE,,, THESE FINE,,, UPSTANDING,,, PROUD RELIGIOUS LEADERS,,, WHO HAVE THE NERVE,,, TO BRING THIS WOMAN TO JESUS,,, WITH MALACE IN THEIR HEARTS AND JUDGEMENT,,, AS THEIR MOTIVE,,, AND WITH PUNISHMENT ON THEIR MINDS.

THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD JESUS RIGHT WHERE THEY WANTED HIM,,, BECAUSE,,, IF JESUS WERE TO SAY:

“STONE HER”,,, *THEN,,, THEY’D SAY;*

“WHERE IS ALL THAT LOVE AND COMPASSION,,, HE’S BEEN TALKING ABOUT?” AND,,,

IF HE TRIED TO TELL THE PHARISEES;

“TO FORGIVE AND HAVE MERCY”,,, THEN,,, JESUS WOULD LOSE ALL HIS CREDIBILITY,,, BECAUSE;

HE WOULD BE ALLOWING THE WOMAN TO VIOLATE THE LAW OF MOSES,,, A LAW THAT JESUS HIMSELF SAID; HE DID NOT COME TO REPLACE,, BUT INSTEAD,, TO FULFILL.

IT APPEARED,,, THAT JESUS,,, HAD FOUND HIMSELF,,, AT THE VERY LEAST,,, IN A TRAP,,, IN A “NO WIN SITUATION”.

SCRIPTURE PLAINLY SAYS THAT; ALL HAVE SINNED,,, AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD!

THESE PROUD RELIGIOUS LEADERS,,, TRIED TO USE THIS INCIDENT,,, TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN MOSES AND JESUS,,, AND THEY SOUGHT TO USE THIS INCIDENT,,, AS A WEAPON AGAINST JESUS,,, SAYING:

“TEACHER,,, THIS WOMAN WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF COMMITTING ADULTRY. NOW,,, THE LAW OF MOSES COMMANDED US TO STONE SUCH WOMEN. SO,,, WHAT DO YOU SAY?”

THEY SAID THIS TO TEST JESUS! *NO,,, THERE WAS NO DENYING THE CHARGES,,, AGAINST THIS WOMAN*,,, BUT THEY REALLY DIDN’T CARE ABOUT THE CHARGES.

THEY JUST WANTED TO FIND SOMETHING,,, THEY COULD USE,,, TO BRING SOME CHARGE AGAINST JESUS.

BUT JESUS WOULDN'T FALL FOR THEIR SCHEME,,, HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH THEIR DECEIT. HE BENT DOWN,,, AND STARTED WRITING IN THE DIRT WITH HIS FINGER.

JESUS DIDN'T IMMEDIATELY SAY ANYTHING TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES.

SO,,, THEY KEPT ON ASKING JESUS THE SAME QUESTION,,, BUT JESUS REMAINED SILENT.

HE JUST KEPT ON WRITING AND NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS WROTE! IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT,,, MAYBE NOT,,, AND IT MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD ANYTHING,,, TO DO WITH THIS WOMAN AT ALL!

YOU SEE,,, THEY HAD SET THIS WOMAN UP AND THEY WANTED JESUS TO BRING HER DOWN! THEY BAITED THE TRAP,,, AND THEY LOOKED FOR JESUS,,, TO SPRING IT ON HER.

NOW,,, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED,,, IF JESUS WROTE SOMETHING LIKE:

HEY,,, DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?

BUT THEN JESUS SIMPLY STRAIGHTENED UP,,, LOOKED AT THE MEN AND SAID;

"LET THE ONE AMONG YOU,,, WHO IS WITHOUT SIN,,, BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER."

AGAIN,,, JESUS BENT DOWN AND BEGAN WRITING IN THE DIRT. BOTH THE YOUNG AND OLD MEN,,, HAD COME TO STONE THIS WOMAN THAT DAY,,, BUT,,, ONE BY ONE,,, BEGINNING WITH THE ELDERS,,, THEY LEFT,,, TAKING THEIR STONES,,, IN THEIR HANDS,,, WITH THEM.

THEY HAD COME TO PUNISH THE WOMAN,, BUT INSTEAD,, THEY WALKED AWAY,, WITH THEIR HEADS HANGING LOW,, BECAUSE THEY REALIZED,, THAT THEY HAD THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES,, FAULTS,, AND,, THEIR OWN SINS!

AFTER EVERYONE HAD DEPARTED,, JESUS AGAIN LIFTED HIMSELF UP AND SEEING THAT HE WAS ALONE WITH THE WOMAN WHO WAS STANDING BEFORE HIM,,, JESUS SAID;

“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!”

THAT DAY,, THIS WOMAN WENT HOME,, FORGIVEN,, FULFILLED AND FOREVER CHANGED.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, WHEN WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO JESUS,,, AND RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS,, WE ARE JUST LIKE THAT WOMAN AND WE CAN HEAR JESUS SAY TO US;

“NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU. GO AND FROM NOW ON,, DO NOT SIN ANY MORE!”

BUT,, JUST AS THAT WOMAN HAD MADE HER DECISION,, NOT TO REPEAT HER SIN AGAIN,, IT’S ALSO THE SAME CHOICE,, THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE!

WE EACH HAVE TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISION,, TO ALLOW THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE OUR LIVES,, IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

THE PARABLE OF THE WOMAN AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS,, THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW,, TEACHES US TWO IMPORTANT THINGS.

(*) THE 1ST” COMES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT; AND IT IS: THAT THE PAYMENT FOR SIN,, CAN ONLY COME THROUGH A SACRAFICE.

(BY THE DEATH OF AN ANIMAL IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES)

FOR US TODAY,,, IT MEANS; THAT WE CAN PAY FOR OUR SINS,,, BY EITHER OF THESE TWO WAYS; (*) BY,,, *OUR OWN ETERNAL DEATH*,,, OR,,, (*) BY *OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE SACRAFICE AND DEATH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST*,,, AS *FULL PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS*.

THE SECOND THING THAT SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, IS; THAT WHEN YOU FIND A PERSON WHO'S TRAPPED IN SIN,,, THE ONLY GOOD THING THAT YOU CAN DO FOR THEM,,, IS; *TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH THEM*.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, DON'T BE AFRAID,,, THEY MAY JUST BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE,,, EXACTLY LIKE YOU,,, TO TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AND HOW,,, THEY CAN HAVE THAT AS WELL.

ALL OF US,,, HAVE SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD! GOD KNOWS WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE'VE DONE. BUT GOD MAKES IT SO EASY FOR US! HE FORGIVES US,,, *BECAUSE OF THE SACRAFICE OF HIS ONLY BELOVED AND DEVINE SON,,, JESUS CHRIST,,, AND HIS FINISHED WORK,,, UP THERE,,, ON THE CROSS*.

DEARLY BELOVED; RIGHT NOW,,, AT THIS VERY MOMENT,,, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS TALKING TO YOU AND HE IS SAYING SOMETHING,,, VERY IMPORTANT: HE IS SAYING:

YOU ARE MY CHILD,,, YOU ARE LOVED,,, AND,,,

YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE TODAY,,, WALK WITH A NEWNESS OF LIFE! AND AS I TOLD THE AD ULTEROUS WOMAN;

GO,,, AND SIN NO MORE!

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

AMEN

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(1,192 WDS 5 PGS)

