

Lent Reflection Resources

Week 3: Testing



The Bible Passage

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 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. Now what do you say"? They 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. When 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". And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.

When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you"?

She said, "No one, sir".

And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again".

~ John 8:2-11



Ways to Enter the Story

You might like to relive the story, as one of the disciples, or an unnamed member of the crowd, or as the woman, and take the opportunity to talk to Jesus, to pray and worship. It might help to read or listen to the passage again. If you find it hard to keep focused while imagining things, you could try writing your reflection down. Or maybe you're artistic, and you want to paint or draw something related to the story.

Here are some questions to ponder as you respond.

As you pray and contemplate the story, where are you in the scene? Look at the faces of those around you. Whose side are they on? How do you feel? Are you anxious about what will happen next? In your imagination look at Jesus. What does he look like? Can you see his facial expression? Does he turn to look at you in your prayer?

What do you think Jesus wrote or drew in the dust: a list of sins, names or something else?

Think of a time when you were caught doing something you are now ashamed of. Can you take this opportunity to talk to Jesus about it? Do you know Jesus' compassion and forgiveness?

This woman was used and abused by the religious leaders, who treated her as an object rather than a fellow human being. Can you recall a time when you were cruelly tested or perhaps tried to trick someone else yourself? Again, talk to Jesus about it and experience his love and forgiveness.

