

CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FAITH IN LAITY CORNER



YEAR 3/CYCLE C

5TH WEEK OF LENT
April 08, 2019

Readings: Is.43:16-21 Jn. 8:1-11

Throwing Stones

There is the old adage which says *“those in glass houses should not throw stones.”* There is a lesson here to remember, that we all live a fragile existence and cannot afford to look down or overlook what others suffer- our turn will come. The First Reading recalls for us an epic incident in Biblical history. The reading taken from the Book of Isaiah recounting highlights of the near-invincible Egyptian army, squaring off against some ill-equipped migrant people about to embark on a journey to what was called the Promise Land.

“Chariots and horsemen, a powerful army..” (Is. 43:18)

It would appear to all that this powerful army could *‘pelt stones’* as they had every earthly asset on their side. But it came to pass that the story did not end as would have been popularly believed.

“Till they lie prostrate together, never to rise,

snuffed out, quenched like a wick.” (Is.43:18)

The end of this great army was the same as for thousands of those who never believed in the power of God. Yet, it will be the opposite for those who have a faithful encounter with God.

*“I put water in the wilderness and rivers in the wasteland,
for my chosen people to drink” (Is. 43:20)*

Where we feel dry and hopeless, God’s hand will be there providing much needed spiritual strength, which will sustain us.

The Gospel was an example for those of us who feel that we have the authority to throw stones and look down on the circumstances others face in their lives. In the time of Jesus women were not considered outside of their value in tending to the needs of their household and providing comfort for their husbands and families.

*“The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had
been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle.” (Jn. 8:3)*

It was known that this woman had no rights and it was admissible to kill a woman for crimes that a man would only receive a ‘slap on the wrist.’

“Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.” (Jn. 8:4)

The culture permitted that women would receive the ultimate of harsh punishment for adultery, whether it was substantiated or not.

“In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.

So what do you say?” (Jn. 8:5)

Jesus was asked His views on this form of punishment as fitting her lifestyle. Jesus was well aware that those who tended to try to ensnare others usually try to justify their actions, by examining the faults of others.

*“They said this to test him, so that they
could have some charge to bring against Him.” (Jn. 8:6)*

Yes, these Jewish officials were ready to condemn a woman to death for her deeds, yet the men involved received no inquiry. Jesus was silently waiting for this moment. He wrote something on the ground in the dust, we may only guess what it could be.

“Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.” (Jn. 8:6)

Whatever it was it affected their idea of stoning this woman about her faults. Jesus challenged them on their *righteous punishment*.

“Let the one among you who is without sin

be the first to throw a stone at her.” (Jn. 8:7)

None of us qualify to throw stones as we are all faulty human beings living in fragile glass houses, and our economic or social status does not exonerate us from our own guilt. As we move towards the end of the Lenten season, our lives or status is not any better than the poorest around us, sometimes they are act more Christ like than we do....

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5 Lent -Throwing Stones

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