

March 24-25, 2007
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 42:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

Perhaps we think if we talk loud and long enough about someone else's failings that people won't notice our own? Might those who are so busy pointing out the perceived 'sins' of individuals and groups really be trying to avoid facing their own darkness' (and perhaps hoping that others won't notice them either???) Again acting in a way contrary to the popular whim, we meet Jesus in today's Gospel of John as he refuses to condemn a woman caught in adultery (and by the way, where was the man who was equally guilty?) Please note that Jesus does not suggest she ought to continue her behavior, indeed, the last line of the Gospel has Jesus indicating that her choice of adultery was sinful...but he does not condemn HER for her choice: 'Neither do I condemn you.' Wow, that must really upset those who want Jesus to condemn everyone with whom they disagree or whom they find unworthy of his grace (and probably even unworthy of life on our planet!) But, being the Son of God means that Jesus gets to say what he wants...and leaves it to us to catch up and grow in our wisdom and understanding of ourselves. Last week we were given an image of an extravagant and generous God who does not relate to us according to our sense of 'fair'. In today's Gospel we are challenged to consider our own sinfulness before we point out everyone else's: 'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' Now, what fun is a God who does align himself with our pettiness? How can God not see the rightness of our self-righteousness in condemning those who don't respond to him as we think they should? It is downright upsetting to the point of perhaps wanting to silence the God that won't go along with our biases...which is of course precisely what we will hear we tried to do with next week's Palm/Passion weekend. Isn't that a hoot...when the Son of God won't go along with how people thought he should act, they tried to silence him by killing him off? Imagine! Thank goodness we have grown in our wisdom and tolerance. We wouldn't do that today would we? Nahhh, we wouldn't ever do that today. Would we? Could we? Oh yeah...we can and we do. All the time.

Thank you for sharing our First Weekend of Spring with us here at Corpus Christi. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home, with the approach of Holy Week you won't want to miss out on any of the scheduled events. Our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast team is outside to accept your reservation for the morning, an opportunity to share the morning with people who have experienced the pain of the Cross and yet have opened themselves to the Resurrection of Hope within their souls. Please note our Lenten Penance Services this Tuesday, March 27th, one in the morning and one in the evening. Next weekend will not only bring us April Fool's Day but will also be Palm/Passion Sunday, the traditional beginning of Holy Week. You would be wise to allow yourself extra time for the lengthier Passion Gospel Narrative, as well as time to claim some blessed palm for your homes. Also, please note our appeal for Easter lilies and other potted spring flowers with which to decorate our outdoor Altar platform on Easter morning...the Bulletin has complete info. As Spring bursts into bloom, remember, you are loved. FKB