



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

April 6, 2025

"Do Not Sin Any More"

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

At first reading of today's gospel, one might think that those who brought the adulterous woman to Jesus were concerned about observance of the law. Halfway through the story, this error is corrected: "They said this to test him" (John 8:6). They thought any answer he would provide would anger his audience. If he directed them to stone her, his teaching about mercy and forgiveness would sound hollow, and people would turn away from him. If he spoke against stoning, he would appear to be setting himself above the law, which required that particular

punishment for adultery. They must have thought they had Jesus cornered.

Not to be undone by them, Jesus traced his finger on the ground. Was he listing the sins of the woman's accusers? Was he using silence to make them feel uncomfortable? Was he choosing his words carefully? Was he simply doodling? We don't know. But his words cut to the core: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). Who would dare step forward to execute the sentence? They left, beginning with the elders, because the custom was to throw the stones according to age—eldest first.

Had Jesus undermined his teaching about mercy and forgiveness? No. Had he denigrated the law? No. Did he leave the woman with the impression that her sin was not serious? No. He left her with an admonition: I will not condemn you to death, but you have to change your life. †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 43:16–21

Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
See, I am doing something new!

Philippians 3:8–14

I continue my pursuit toward the goal,
the prize of God's upward calling,
in Christ Jesus.

John 8:1–11

[Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees,] "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."



**"They said this to test him."
They thought that any
answer [Jesus] would provide
would anger his audience.**

A Word from Pope Francis

Brothers and sisters...at any time our individual and communal religiosity can conceal *the worm of hypocrisy and the urge to point the finger* at others. We can always run the risk of failing to understand Jesus, of having his name on our lips but denying him by the way that we live.

HOMILY, MALTA, APRIL 3, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How quick am I to point out the failings of others?
- How do I demand more of others than of myself?



Seeing Others with Resurrection Eyes

Paige Byrne Shortal

A rabbi asked a question of his disciples: “When does night end and day begin?” “When it becomes light

enough to walk along the path without the use of a lantern,” said one. “When you can see someone approaching in the distance,” said another. “When the stars fade from the sky,” said a third. The rabbi shook his head. “When you look into a stranger’s face,” he said, “and recognize him or her as your dear brother or sister, only then has the day begun.”

Every person we meet is placed on our path by God. If we listen closely, perhaps we can hear God introducing us to each other: “Meet my beloved son or daughter. I will be so happy if you love each other.” When we look at each other with our resurrection eyes, we see people as Jesus sees them. Of all the human beings who

have ever lived, Jesus’ mother, Mary, saw him the most clearly—her child, the God-man Jesus. We can pray to Mary to help us see clearly, to find Jesus in the faces of each other, to find brothers and sisters even among our enemies, to find God’s creative love in the world around us.

We can pray to Mary to help us see clearly, to find Jesus in... each other.

Practice seeing this way, particularly people you either don’t like so much or don’t really see—the customer service representative whose first language is not English, the driver in the next lane, the person behind you in line. How can you put this new kind of seeing into action? Is

there someone you’ve failed to acknowledge or thank? Someone you’re avoiding? Someone you won’t forgive? Make plans to change that, won’t you? ‡

From *Live Lent at Home: Daily Prayers and Activities for Families* by Paige Byrne Shortal, (818691). Available from Liguori Publications. To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Lent Day by Day: Seeing the Face of God in Others” by Rev. Paul Turner

When we see a crowd of people, we see just that—a crowd. But God sees each person. I invite you to look at others the way God sees them. When people state a real concern, we need to be ready to reply. When they talk long, we have to listen slow. Throughout this Lent, in addition to practicing sacrifice and prayer, it is customary to practice charity. If we seek the face of God, we can find it in many people.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



Lord Jesus, so that we may see others as you see them, even those we find difficult, we pray—
Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 7–12

Monday, Lenten Weekday: Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62 / Jn 8:12–20


Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:
Nm 21:4–9 / Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:
Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95 / Jn 8:31–42

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Gn 17:3–9 / Jn 8:51–59

Friday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 20:10–13 / Jn 10:31–42

Saturday, Lenten Weekday:
Ez 37:21–28 / Jn 11:45–56

Bringing Home
the Word 

April 6, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.