

Reflections

He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first. (John 8:7b)

The Jewish religious leaders tried to trap Jesus on many occasions. If Jesus had commanded them not to stone the lady caught in adultery he would go against the Mosaic Law and if he had agreed with the stoning of the lady, it would contradict his own teaching of loving the sinner. It is also interesting to note that the leaders had only planned to punish the lady whereas the law in Lev.20:10 commanded that both the man and lady are to be stoned. Jesus was not trapped but instead, without opposing the law, he told them to go ahead provided they were themselves without sin. Jesus taught that anyone who has lust in his/her heart against a woman/man had already committed adultery in his/her heart (Matt.5:28). This convicted all the accusers and they left the scene leaving Jesus alone, who being sinless was the only one who could judge the lady. Jesus' words were, "Go and sin no more." By doing this, Jesus showed mercy but did not condone the sin. He would eventually die for this lady's sin on the Cross and thus complete the process of justice by dying in her place.

We are also often tempted to accuse and judge others. We are quick to point a finger at others and many times the basic reason is that we have a preconceived lingering hatred or animosity against the person though we may say that we have nothing personal against him/her. The example that Jesus has set before us is to be compassionate and forgiving.

Prayer

Jesus the sinner's friend to thee, lost and undone for aid I flee, weary of death myself and sin, open thine arms and take me in. Amen.