

Forward Ever, Backward Never!

Today, the fifth Sunday of Lent, shows that we have just one Sunday (Palm Sunday) to celebrate Easter. Through the readings of today, God invites us not to grieve the mistakes of the past but to learn from them and live above them. The Word of God, Prophet Isaiah, addressed to exiles in the first reading, is also addressed to us, “Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see I am doing something new!” Similarly, St. Paul invites us to learn from his own life; he lived, “forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead....”

Likewise, the Gospel presents the story of the woman caught committing adultery. This Gospel has many moving parts. Firstly, the shame the prosecutors put on the woman. What of the Man? Secondly, they set Jesus to the test and wanted him to support their acts of injustice. Jesus, in his response, challenged both the prosecutors and the woman. Jesus questioned the prosecutors, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her,” This changed the whole story and made the prosecutors abscond.

The goal of Jesus in this Gospel was not to disregard the law of his people but to speak and react against laws that perpetuated injustice and unfairness. Hence, his words to the woman, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, do not sin anymore.” The Gospel reminds us of our God, who doesn’t condemn us but wants us to turn a new leaf and look forward to a promising future. Let us ask the good Lord to help us live continuously in his mercy and be instruments of his mercy to others. Amen

“For God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?” (Matthew 7: 2-3)