

Meditation 2014-03-29
Saturday Of The Third Week Of Lent
Meditation Theme: “Am I Expecting The Law To Be Set Aside For Me?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

AT that time: Jesus went unto mount Olivet. And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him, and sitting down He taught them. And the scribes and the Pharisees bring unto Him a woman taken in adultery: and they set her in the midst, and said to Him: Master, this woman was even now taken in adultery. Now Moses in the law commanded us to stone such a one. But what sayest Thou? And this they said tempting Him, that they might accuse him. But Jesus bowing Himself down, wrote with His finger on the ground. When therefore they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself, and said to them: He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again stooping down, He wrote on the ground. But they hearing this, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest. And Jesus alone remained, and the woman standing in the midst. Then Jesus lifting up Himself, said to her: Woman, where are they that accused thee? Hath no man condemned thee? Who said: No man, Lord. And Jesus said: Neither will I condemn thee. Go, and now sin no more.

Point 1. – Jesus is presented with a woman (*some Biblical historians say that this was Mary Magdalene herself*) who was actually caught committing adultery. There is no doubt of her guilt.

Point 2. – The Pharisees attempt to have Jesus make a definitive judgment, expecting to work either His “yes” or His “no” against Him.

Point 3. – Jesus, by whatever it was that He wrote in the dirt, and by His challenge for the sinless to self-identify, convinces the Pharisees to drop their pursuit of this particular violation of the Law.

Meditation: Jesus tells the woman that He will not condemn her, even though she really did commit the crime. Was He bound by either the Law or His Divine nature to do that? Did He do it only out of compassion for the guilty woman? Might He have had another reason? Since this was to be recorded in the Gospel, He knew that we would learn the story. Might He be teaching us?

Jesus quite obviously forgave the woman. Have I committed sins that require forgiveness? Are there any sins which do not require forgiveness? Do I have any right to expect forgiveness? Do I have any right to demand forgiveness?

Am I a Pharisee? Do I judge others? Can I look into someone else’s soul like God can? If someone sins publicly, do I condemn only the action, or do I condemn the souls as well? How eager am I to punish others for their crimes? How eager am I to punish others for their sins? If someone does something wrong, do I ask him why he did it? Can I believe the answer I get, if I get one at all? Am I entitled to an answer?

Have I ever done anything wrong? Am I anxious for others to know why I did it? Would I, if pressed, try to excuse myself in the eyes of others? Do I try to excuse myself in my own eyes? If I see someone else sinning, do I remember that I am a sinner also? Do I leave the judgment of souls to God? How ready am I to cast the first stone?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.