



April 7, 2019 John 8: 1-11 & Is. 43: 16-21

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[The process of change](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

This story, only found in John, finds Jesus once again under the magnifying glass of those wishing to render him impotent. They use a religious motive to give them permission to use deadly force. Their envious hearts found a rejected heart to reassure their own virtue. Once again, Jesus reaches into himself to find a both/and response to their either or question. This is only possible because he knows that the Father loves even those with stones in their hands. His response creates a space for the Spirit to work in even the hardest of hearts. The Pharisees weren't around to hear Jesus say; "nor do I condemn you". How has God's love for you helped you to see the 'other' the way Jesus saw? Have any of your Lenten practices helped you to do this?

John 8: 1-11

1. Jesus went out to the **Mount of Olives**. 2. At daybreak he reappeared in the temple area; and when the people started coming to him, he **sat down** and began to teach them. 3. The **scribes** and the **Pharisees** led a

woman forward who had been **caught in adultery**. They made her stand there in **front** of everyone. 4. "**Teacher**," they said to him, "this **woman** has been caught in the act of **adultery**. 5. In the **law**, **Moses** ordered such women to be **stoned**. What do you have to say about the case?" 6. (They were **posing** this **question** to **trap** him, so that they could have something to **accuse** him of.) Jesus simply **bent down** and started **tracing** on the **ground** with his **finger**. 7. When they **persisted** in their **questioning**, he **straightened** up and said to them, "Let the **man** among you who has no sin be the first to cast a **stone** at her." 8. A second time he **bent down** and wrote on the **ground**. 9. Then the **audience drifted** away one by one, beginning with the **elders**. This left him alone with the **woman**, who continued to **stand** there before him. 10. Jesus finally **straightened** up again and said to her, "**Woman**, where did they all **disappear** to? Has no one **condemned** you?" 11. "No sir," she answered. Jesus said, "Nor do I **condemn** you. You may go. But from now on, avoid this sin."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus found a way for everyone to learn from the encounter of the woman caught in adultery by remembering that God loved everyone there that day. How does remembering that God loves even your enemy, help you to decide what to do when challenged?

PRAYER: Counselor Jesus, you use this situation to help everyone see a deeper reality. You know that the Father wants freely given love, not just fearful obedience. Those who wanted to be right more than acknowledging their relationship with all who miss the mark and sin, have a chance to look within honestly and find the best in themselves. The poor woman encounters a man who values her dignity and gives her the freedom to do the same. Help me as I take all the chances you give me to look within and find the best in me. Amen.