

Children's Page

Send in your prayers or poems to emmaheslop@live.co.uk

Gospel - St John 8:1-11

Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the Pharisees brought a woman to stand before him. "This woman has been caught doing something wrong, and the law says that she should be stoned. What do you think?" they asked, because they wanted to trick Jesus.

After a few moments Jesus stood up and said, "Let the person who has never done anything wrong throw the first stone at her."

The crowd that had gathered began to leave one by one, until Jesus and the woman stood alone. Jesus said to her, "Has anyone thrown a stone at you?"

"No sir," she answered. "Then I have forgiven you," he said. "Now go and sin no more."

Reflection

In the time of Jesus, there were lots of Jewish laws and the wrong that the woman had done was to be put to death by stoning. The Pharisees wanted to trick Jesus - they knew he was full of compassion and forgiveness but they knew that the Jewish law should be upheld. They thought if Jesus said for the woman to be released Jesus himself could be punished as he would be accused of disregarding the justice of the law.

Jesus, though, did not condemn the woman but the sin she had committed. He simply stated that the punishment should be carried out by those who had never sinned themselves. The Pharisees realised that everyone is guilty of making mistakes at some time, and that only God is perfect. As a result, no one threw any stones at the woman.

Jesus told the woman to "go and sin no more" - his forgiveness gave her the chance to put her past behind her and start afresh.

Jesus gives us the opportunity to look within ourselves and think about our mistakes and not look at others making mistakes and judging them. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us make a greater effort not to judge others but to set a good example to how a follower of Jesus should act and behave.

Prayer

Loving Father,

Fill us with compassion and love and make us people of forgiveness,
according to your commandments of love.

Amen