

5th Sunday – Year C

Today we hear about the woman caught in adultery AND we hear about forgiveness
Great sin requires Great forgiveness – and our God brings Great forgiveness

In prison ministry I met a priest who told me an experience he had
He was celebrating Mass at Christmas in a SuperMax woman's prison
Three tiers of cells all looking down on him in what was usually common area
He had preached about Jesus being born – but also WHY Jesus was born
As he proceeded through the Mass he began to hear women yelling
“Alice, I am sorry”- “I know” “Maria, I didn't mean it”
Again and again different women yelled from one cell to another
The priest began to cry – overwhelming forgiveness was all around
This was something new that was unheard of in that prison

Look at 1st reading – Israel about to be released from Babylonian captivity
“Thus says the Lord - REMEMBER NOT THE DEEDS OF THE PAST
I AM DOING SOMETHING NEW (something even better than what God's already done)

“I am doing something new – rivers in the wasteland, water in the desert, WHY?
So that “the people I have chosen for myself will sing my praise”
So that “the people I have chosen for myself IN NWD will sing my praise”
From captivity in Babylon, freedom – JOY
From slavery to sin to forgiveness - JOY
“ Remember not your deeds of the past, I am doing something new”

That's what happens in this gospel “something new” is happening
For this woman – it better be something new – else she dies!
- Cards are stacked against her – Here's the Law & Caught in the Act
- Pretty clear cut – **but Jesus does something new – *He doesn't judge her***
She is brought before Him – accusations fly – Old Way is clear
“Let the man among you without sin cast the first stone”
Do we cast stones? In all our relationships: At others? At ourselves? At God?

The **Good News** (the Something New God is Doing)
Salvation through the forgiveness of sins”
We sin Divine Love Forgives

NB

Your sin may be great, and seem insurmountable, but the sinner is always loved –
Jesus forgave the woman Jesus forgave his own executioners
Jesus will forgive you

This is what we bring to the Passion next week.
The Passion of Christ doesn't end on the cross – leads to the Resurrection Christ.
We get to be forgiven – whether you're in prison OR in your living room
God is willing to do something new
So that “the people he has chosen for myself will sing his praise” YOU!