

5th Sunday – Year C

Today feels like it should be called New Beginnings Sunday.

In Isaiah – it's just before the return from the Babylonian exile.
A new Exodus is about to happen – going home.

God says “I am doing something new – rivers in the wasteland, water in the desert, the people I have chosen for myself will sing my praise”

It's the 5th Sunday of Lent – we are coming out of the desert –
& the Passion is staring us in the face.

BUT – You can look at Isaiah today and hear the promise – “new beginnings”.
“I am doing something new ...” Jesus is going to rise from the dead.

Then we have this gospel

It recalls sin – but the focus is again “something new”

For this woman – it's new beginnings

- cards are stacked against her – Here's the Law & Caught in the Act
- Pretty clear cut

Jesus doesn't judge her – “Let the man among you without sin cast the first stone”

Ask – Do we cast stones? In all our relationships:
At others?
At ourselves?
At God?

The **Good News** is we have **Salvation through the forgiveness of sins**

We Sin Divine Love Forgives

“I am doing something new” → water in the desert Salvation despite our sin

The woman caught in adultery is not in the earliest manuscripts of John's gospel.
Scholars feel it was left out because the mercy it showed was too great to be believed
Believe it!

Old Story - Scorpion Story

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

With Jesus we have mercy over Justice – and this is the Good News we bring to the
Passion. Good News that doesn't end with the Passion – leads to the Resurrected Christ.

We've spent the weekend looking at the Shepherd's Heart

- We've seen the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost
- We've seen the weak shephard of Israel in Sampson
- We've talked about purity of heart
- & the need to know the self, others, and God

In Jesus – in this gospel – we see a Shepherd's heart
“neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more”

As you go back to your communities, to your families – bring the heart of a shepherd

NOT ONLY TOWARD THEM

But toward yourself as well

In your relationships in your prayer groups, at work, at home, at school, wherever

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Ask – Do we cast stones?	In all our relationships:
	At others?
	At ourselves?
	At God?

As human beings we are a people in relationship
But Christians, we are called to be Shepherds