

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE, MEET GOD

Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 7, 2019

John 8:1-11

Day One: John 8:1-3

Reflection question: The crowd brings the woman caught in adultery to Jesus. Where are you today: in the crowd, next to the woman, next to Jesus? Why do you think you would be there?

Day Two: John 8:4-6

Reflection Question: Imagine you are the woman in the passage. What thoughts are going through your mind at this moment?

Day Three: John 8:7-9

Reflection Question: Jesus and the woman are left alone as the crowd leaves one by one. If you were alone with Jesus, what would you say? What would you want to hear, today?

Day Four: John 8:10-11

Reflection question: Jesus sends the woman on her way, with the admonition to sin no more. What do you hear Jesus saying to you today?

Day Five: John 8:1-11

Reflection question: As you read the entire passage today, what word, image or phrase sticks out for you? What do you think God is trying to say to you through your word, phrase, or image?

How to Pray Each Day

Pray:

“Lord Jesus, you who are the Son of the living God, teach me to listen to what you tell me in the holy Scriptures, and to discover your face there.”—Guigo II, the Carthusian (ca. 1113-1193)

Read the day’s passage once, slowly:

Take 2-3 minutes to ponder the passage. Note any phrase, word or image that stands out for you.

Read the passage a second time slowly:

Take a few minutes to ponder the passage again. Stay with the text: Why do you think the words or image stand out the first time? Is your mind drawn to another part of the text?

What do you think God is trying to tell you through the text today?

Consider the Reflection Question:

Jot down any thoughts or responses you have to this question—also make note of any questions that rose from the text.

Pray

1. Take a few minutes to be still and present to God.
2. Share your thoughts, questions with God.
3. Is God “speaking” to you? Remember: it may not be a voice you hear but a nudge, a consolation or an insight. If you are keeping a journal, you may want to write these down.
4. When you feel done, say a quick prayer thanking God for this time with him.

Optional Small group session to follow these daily reflections:

Pray the following prayer or one in your own words

“Lord Jesus, you who are the Son of the living God, teach me to listen to what you tell me in the holy Scriptures, and to discover your face there.”—Guigo II, the Carthusian (d.1297)

Allow each person to reflect upon their encounters with the Word this past week. They may wish to review any notes or journaling they did at that time.

Read

- Have one person read the complete passage twice, with a 1-2 minute pause between readings.
- Allow time for silent reflection.
- What stands out when you hear the text, altogether? Is it something that stood out before, or is it something new?

Meditate

- Have someone else read the passage once more.
- Where do you meet God today in the Word? Does he speak, or communicate with you in another way?
 - Sit quietly with God and wait for his response.

Ponder

Allow time for each person to quietly reflect upon these words from the Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus:

Dear friends, from the Word of God we have just heard emerge practical instructions for our life. Jesus does not enter into a theoretical discussion with his interlocutors on this section of Mosaic Law; he is not concerned with winning an academic dispute about an interpretation of Mosaic Law, but his goal is to save a soul and reveal that salvation is only found in God's love. This is why he came down to the earth, this is why he was to die on the Cross and why the Father was to raise him on the third day. Jesus came to tell us that he wants us all in Paradise –homily, March 25, 2007

Reflection questions:

- What does it mean for *you* that Jesus knows what it is to be tempted?
- Have you found God's presence in a moment of temptation?
- This Lent, what temptation do you need Jesus' help to resist?

Discuss

Allow each person to share what they encountered in their prayers this past week as in this session. They can respond to any question from their daily reflection or this session; or share an insight or experience that rose out of their prayer.

As the discussion draws to a close, ask if there are any needs members would like the group to pray for. If it is possible, at this time move to a chapel or the church for the closing prayer.

Pray

- Allow a time of silent prayer, allowing each person to offer their own silent prayers of praise and thanksgiving, petition to the Lord.
- Allow additional time to sit in the Lord's presence.
- If possible and appropriate, allow each person to offer any prayers aloud.
- Close with prayer as is the custom of your community. It could be: a spontaneous prayer, a parish prayer for renewal said together, an Our Father, Glory Be or prayer to the patron saint of the parish asking his/her intercession, etc.