

BIBLE READING DAY 38, TUESDAY: APRIL 5

Holy Week, Wednesday: Jesus and the Woman Taken in Adultery

Luke 21:37-38; John 8:1-11

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. In the daytime he taught in the temple, but at night he went out and stayed in Mount Olives.

All the people came early in the morning to him in the temple to hear him. As he sat down and began to teach them, the scribes and Pharisees brought in a woman who had been taken in adultery and, placing her in the midst, said to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses commanded us in the law that such should be stoned. But what do you say?"

This they said to test him, that they might have something of which to accuse him. But Jesus bent down and, with his finger, began to write on the ground. And as they continued to question him, he stood up and said to them, "Let the man among you who has never sinned cast the first stone."

And again, Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground. And having heard his words, they were convicted by their own consciences and, one by one, they went away, beginning with the eldest and continuing to the last man. Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing there in the midst.

Then Jesus stood up and, seeing no one but the woman, said to her, "Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, Lord," she answered.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go your way, and sin no more."

The Purpose of Jesus's Death

John 12:20-50

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. And they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew, and they both went to tell Jesus.

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," said Jesus. "I tell you truly, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his own life loses it, but he who counts his life of no selfish importance in this world will keep it for everlasting life. If any man will serve me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If any man will serve me, the Father will honor him.

"Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for it was for this purpose that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then there came a voice from heaven, "I have already glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd of bystanders, hearing this, said it thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him!"

"This voice came not for my sake, but for yours," said Jesus. "Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the prince of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

(This he said to show the kind of death he was about to die.)

"We have heard out of the scriptures that the Messiah will live forever," answered the people. "What do you mean when you say 'the Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

“Only a little while longer will the light be with you,” said Jesus. “Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you. He who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. Believe in the light while you still have the light, that you may become sons of light.”

Then said Jesus, “He who believes in me believes not only in me, but in him who sent me, and he who recognizes me recognizes him. I have come into the world as light, that whoever believes in me may not live in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not obey them, I do not judge him, for I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. Nevertheless, he who rejects me and refuses to accept my words has one that judges him: the very word I have spoken will judge him at the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself commanded me what to say and to teach, and I know that his commandment is eternal life. All that I say, therefore, I speak as the Father has told me.”

Having said these things, Jesus departed and hid himself from them. And though he had done many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in him, so that the word of the prophet Isaiah was fulfilled,

Lord, who has believed our testimony? To whom has the Servant of the Lord been revealed?

Therefore, they could not believe, for Isaiah also said,

***He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart,
lest they should see with their eyes and
understand in their heart and turn, that I should heal them.***

These things said Isaiah, because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities themselves believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees, they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the approval of God.

Parable of the Virgins

Matthew 25:1–13

“Then will the kingdom of heaven be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish took their lamps, but took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. Now as the bridegroom delayed a long while, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all those bridesmaids rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out!’

“No,’ replied the wise, ‘for there might not be enough for us and for you. Go instead to the oil sellers and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they went to buy more oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut. Later, the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

“But he replied, ‘I tell you truly, I do not know you.’

“Watch therefore, for you do not know the day or the hour.”

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry														
EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER

DEVOTIONAL DAY 38 (TUESDAY APRIL 5)

“Mercy Bears Richer Fruits Than Justice”

Based on Matthew 25:1-13; John 8:1-11; John 12:20-50

When faced with our sin, we can often retreat into shame and fear. The woman caught in adultery was exposed publicly, and Jesus was there. That was the safest place for her to be. Her accusers demanded justice, but Jesus offered mercy.

When I am found guilty of a transgression, Jesus is present to offer me mercy. His forgiveness covers my guilt and shame. Jesus said, “*Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.*” Even our accusers can be on the receiving end of His mercy.

There is a time when each one of us have had to face the sin in our hearts. Will we give our shame and guilt to the One who offers mercy? Jesus understands our sorrow and humiliation. God showed us the value He placed on our lives by sending His Son to pay for our sin. He freely forgives when we humbly and with a contrite heart confess our sin.

“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.”

Abraham Lincoln

How can our lives radiate His grace to the world? We must be filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit to be His light in the world. The Bridegroom, our Savior, will return at a time we do not know. Our bodies are lamps that hold His light. Without the continued filling of the Holy Spirit, we can't be ready to meet Jesus. Let us walk in the light as He is in the light and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dear Merciful Father, Thank You sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to free us from our sin. You are always faithful to forgive and to fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to walk in Your light so the world will see Jesus in us. Amen.

--By Cliff and Nancy Friesen

FUN FACT: John's purpose in writing his gospel was not to give a chronological approach but rather that people would “believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life through his name.” (See Day 49, from John 20:31)

As a result, the event about the woman caught in adultery is often stated to be a genuine account but it is unknown of when it occurred. The inclusion that Jesus came in from the Mount of Olives and the type of story it was seems to fit best during the final week of the gospel, so this chronological rendering of all four gospels places this event here.

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

A

C

T

S