

Sisters and Brothers, let us be filled with joy!

04/06/2025

Covenant Life

- Continuing our pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, our next prayer meeting is one week from today on April 13th at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet. *Please note that to allow families to spend more time with their families on Mother's Day we will change the pattern in May and meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.*
- PLEASE continue prayers for our special Community intention.
- Registration for CAMP JESUS (June 9-13) is OPEN until April 15th. Register [here](#) or contact camp-jesus@GodsDelight.org.
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise [here](#), donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

Some years ago, a brother in Community shared a [book](#) with me on the call to Radical Love. This came to mind in reflecting on the [Gospel](#) today. In this story, we experience Jesus' Radical Mercy. The word radical can bring about different images, but it is hard to not see Jesus' demonstrated mercy as anything but extreme.

In this familiar scene the Scribes and Pharisees have brought a woman, caught in adultery, attempting to trap Jesus. Where do we place ourselves in mediating on this scene? It is worth contemplating Jesus rising above the confrontation with the Scribes and Pharisees to focus His love and mercy on the woman. Can we so detach from the emotion of our life situations to see one another with God's eyes? Are our minds and hearts attune to 'What would Jesus do?'

Pondering this myself, the Holy Spirit recalled a situation when I was a young adult in Community and experienced the pain of a close friend being publicly confronted with sin. The lesson that I learned through this experience was 'hate the sin, love the sinner'. This was and is a super important lesson. The Holy Spirit was teaching me to not judge but to radically love.

This is what is on display in the Gospel today. Jesus is showing us what Radical Love is by exercising Radical Mercy. He was demonstrating how to hate the sin

and love the sinner with His words *"I do not condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."*

Sin is sin and it cannot be rationalized away, hence Jesus' exhortation to go and sin no more...but this was prefaced by the confident assurance of His love and mercy in the words that He does not condemn.

There are multiple ways that we can reflect on this passage and allow it to change us. Maybe the Holy Spirit is asking us to further develop the mercy we show to one another. Ponder the radical mercy that Jesus offers on the cross *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."* Jesus, allow me to imitate Your radical mercy in the everyday circumstances of my life.

We would also likely benefit from allowing the Holy Spirit to recognize this mercy being extended to us. Maybe we have let satan confuse us regarding some past acts and we have not received, as the woman in the Gospel, God's radical love and mercy. If this is the case, for Catholics, this is a perfect time to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For all of us, this can be a call to inner healing or a time of intimate sharing in a pastoral care or spiritual direction relationship.

Let us not let this opportunity pass us by. Let us see Jesus' example and receive and bestow radical mercy.

Let us pray, "Jesus, Your examples of radical mercy are just what I need to draw closer to You. I ask for healing for anything that might be holding me back from the level of intimacy that You desire with me. I receive Your radical love, Your radical mercy, and rest in this. I also ask that Your Holy Spirit bestow upon me the grace to demonstrate radical love and radical mercy upon those in my life. I want to love as You love, I want to show mercy as You showed mercy. I know this is only possible through an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit. I pray for this...come Lord Jesus...Come Holy Spirit. I love You. Amen."

God Bless,

David