

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR-C- 2025:

NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU!.

My lecturer in counseling always talked of **letting go, detaching and attaching oneself**. The theme of **letting go of the past** and **focusing on the future** runs through our readings today.

Israelites having being in exile for many years, looked back on their **deliverance** from Egypt, **Exodus, manna, water in the desert and eventually land flowing with milk and honey** all these were past memories, Isaiah (43:16-21) **encourages and gives hope** that they should not live in the past or remember the things of old. **Look am doing a new thing, am opening up a new way and rivers in the desert**. Great encouragement for these people and for us too when we are **desperate and disappointed** about to give up we are called to **let the past be past and look for the future with confidence**.

St. Paul (Philip 3 :8-14) echoes the same this time referring to himself his past life as persecutor of the Gospel but now having been **touched by the hand of the Lord through conversion**. He is looking forward for the future and refuses to be mastered by his past life ***I forget what is behind me, I race forward and run towards the goal(phi 3:13)**. we are all called to look toward to the future, we need to let the **past be past and concentrate on future with confidence** like St. Paul, we have *past life with good and bad memories but we shouldn't be tied to the past*.

The gospel (Jn 8:1-11) echoes this great episode of the woman caught in the very act of adultery.. She **lets her past life to be past and finds consolation, hope and future in the person of Jesus Christ**. you can imagine the situation this poor lady found herself

into,being dragged to Jesus,the force,they must have teared her clothes.thrown her shoes away in the process of excessive force battered her ready to stone her as the law demands.There was no respect for this poor lady as a human being due to her actions and she knew the consequences was death by stoning..The final verdict was in this person they took her to, Jesus.The verdict came loud and clear,***let anyone among you who has no sin,throw the first stone on her (8:7)*** he started writing on the ground turning upside the table on them.Raising up his head the accusers had left one by one leaving the scarred lady with Jesus.She must have been confused with what happened and what will happen of her now..Jesus displayed profound **compassion and kindness to her while at the same time upholding the law**.He didn't condone the woman action but told her to **sin no more**. He condemned the sin but not the sinner .**woman where are they,has no one condemn you?,no sir.*neither do I condemn you,go and sin no more.The lady needed mercy and understanding that she may repent and this got from the person of Jesus.***She felt **guilty,ashamed of her past life,she repented,her dignity restored and made whole again**.She let the past be past and future became her responsibility.

Jesus didn't condemn the accusers either but let them to judge themselves and their sinfulness.Jesus doesn't need the death of the sinner rather he want them to come for his mercy.He is calling us this fifth Sunday of Lent to forget about our past life and look for future in him.Atleast there is someone interested in **restoring our broken life's,healing and accepting us back his name is JESUS**
LET US GO TO HIM THIS LENT AND REMAIN WITH HIM ALWAYS:li

