

Lent 5 ... Be Forgiving – No One Is Perfect



*When you finally get home from work, put the kids to bed and get to collapse on the sofa only to find one of your children's dirty socks stuff down the sofa (along with a couple of lollipop sticks and a box of raisins) ... I have one child who will leave his school clothes strewn around various areas of the house and another child who is a perfectionist and gets cross when everything isn't just 'right'. Complete opposites and yet they both seem to take after me. I am not sure which one causes me the most angst! However ... as I constantly remind myself ... I was exactly the same at their age and we all have our own 'little ways'!*

*And so as we journey through Lent, this week sees us focus on the theme 'Be Forgiving ... No One Is Perfect'. The Scripture reading want us to focus on us using this season of Lent as a time of renewal and becoming better people ... a chance to 'iron out' some of our own imperfections. This is a season of self-reflection. We are not here to judge others or point out their imperfections! We also need to understand that to begin with we must be forgiving towards ourselves. Christ sets us a high standard to aim for in life and many of us will struggle to achieve anywhere near it. But it is the effort that counts. In the same way that I have struggled to fast certain food items for this Lent ... in no way has this been the 'perfect Lent' for me ... we continue to try.*

[Mr Doust]

## Scripture:

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he went back to the Temple. All the people came to Jesus, and he sat and taught them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought a woman there. She had been caught in adultery. They forced the woman to stand before the people. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught having physical relations with a man who is not her husband. The law of Moses commands that we kill with stones every woman who does this. What do you say we should do?" They were asking this to trick Jesus so that they could have some charge against him.

But Jesus knelt down and started writing on the ground with his finger. They continued to ask Jesus their question. So he stood up and said, "Is there anyone here who has never sinned? The person without sin can throw the first stone at this woman." Then Jesus knelt down again and wrote on the ground.

Those who heard Jesus began to leave one by one. The older men left first, and then the others. Jesus was left there alone with the woman. She was standing before him. Jesus stood up again and asked her, "Woman, all of those people have gone. Has no one judged you guilty?"

She answered, "No one has judged me, sir."

Then Jesus said, "So I also don't judge you. You may go now, and try not to sin again."

## Prayer:

God of forgiveness, My heart can be so deceiving. So easily I count the wrong of others against me and dwell in unforgiveness. Yet my greatest error is my sin against You. You who have all the right to hold it against me, but You made a way for me to be forgiven, through trust in Jesus, Your Son. I pray that You will give me sincere remorse for my sin and that You will extend Your forgiveness and kindness over my sin.

Help me to feel the freedom of Your forgiveness in my life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.