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Theme: Reflection - Our Sins and Throwing the First Stone

Scripture: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:11 NIV (paraphrased) The adulteress responds to Jesus..... *“No one, sir.”*

Jesus answers..... *“Then neither do I condemn you.....go now and leave your life of sin.”*

A Thought:

Whoa! What a year for television news. The media Towers of Babel continue it's presence as the purveyor of news. Wait a second, oh - yes and the on-going stream of utterance pulsate over backyard fences....21st century broadband media gossipers to be sure. The politicians that walk the marble halls of our nation's capitol are the fodder for the media i.e., “News Alert” frenzy. It seems as though in addition to discussing “unimportant” subjects the likes of unemployment, increasing health care, two war fronts, high cost of fuel, tornados and the list goes on.....we are discussing the foibles and or the transgressions of our best and brightest. So they tell us. Who would have ever thought that “tweeting” would lead to sinful desires, depravity and plain brainlessness. Countless public figures have and are currently experiencing spiritual doldrums due to their own making. This moment in history should give us time to reflect on our own sinful lasciviousness....do we adhere to the benefits of Godly righteousness or do we lean to the practice of sin? Important question...do we follow Jesus? Remember our Lord's exhortation in the temple courts. He dressed-down the teachers of the law and the Pharisees when they questioned Him before stoning the woman caught in adultery. His answer was short and to the point...with his finger he wrote on the ground *“If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw the first stone at her.” (John 8:7)*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Are you aware of the dangers of today's social network?
- Are you careful of what you watch on television?
- What steps do you take to protect yourself from temptation?
- Are we tempted to gossip? Do we study the Word daily?

Scriptures to read:

- Jesus forgives the adulterous woman: John 8:1-11
- Righteousness: Romans 5 (specifically 5:6-8);
- Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ: Chapters: Romans 6, 7 and 8

Quote:

G.K. Chesterton - *"Men do not differ much about what things they call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable."*

(TentMaker Quotes)

Saint Augustine of Hippo - His writings in Confessions (400): *"If the things of this world delight you, praise God for them, but, turn your love away from them and give it to their Maker; The good things which you love are all from God but they are good and sweet only as long as they are used to do His will."*

Bottom Line:

We are all susceptible to sin and hypocrisy. Temptations are only seconds away. And self-righteousness is always within reach. God tells us in the scriptures to be Holy because He is Holy. So what's the problem? Our sinful nature - and our weakness. That's the problem. The bishop (to be) and theologian Augustine struggled with sin. One prayer in particular states his anguish *"I had prayed to you for chastity and continence but not yet."* He wanted the disease of lust cured but the power of satisfaction of lust not quelled. Paul tells us in (Romans 6:19), *"Put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves, just as you used to offer the parts of your body to slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so offer them in slavery to righteousness."*

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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