

Homily : The 3rd Sunday of Lent March 24th 2019

Title: The Past has Passed

“The Samaritans came to believe in him because of the woman’s testimony” , St John’s Gospel tells us today.

Introduction

I’ve done something embarrassing and someone throws it in my face. I’ve done something I’m not proud of, I blew my marriage , got fired a second time, I was arrested for a DUI.

Scorekeepers who remember what I did will dig it up and dump on me. Whether it was ten years ago or three days ago, they make sure, Im a product of my past, even if I even made amends. But I don’t have to be a prisoner of my past. It is ok to move on, even if my scorekeeper doesn’t think so.

One of the longest one-on-one conversations recorded in scripture is the one Jesus had with the woman at the well. Her life was changed forever by

Christ's compassionate and non-judgemental attitude.

When I see someone aching to bring up my past mistake, failure, or hurt, I won't let them drag me through it all again. I will tell them I no longer live in the past- I changed my address from the "was" to the "is". Smile and say "Oh yeah I remember that"!, then change the subject. Force them into the present and don't allow them to retreat into my past. It's the only way to live an emotionally healthy life.

Make It Real –

Next time your scorekeeper brings up my past, I will stuff two cotton balls in my ears. Hopefully, they will get the hint!

Take It To God –

Dear Jesus, you see me as I am and not as I was. Help me to see others the same way.

Amen