

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

### **GOD'S COMPASSIONATE LOVE**

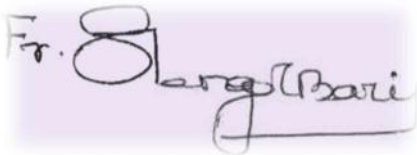
The scribes and the Pharisees wanted to “test” Jesus, to see if Jesus would condemn the woman, and if He wouldn't, then they could accuse Him of breaking the law. But Jesus turns it over, and it is they who are tested in turn. Their hypocritical double standard in judging only the woman (Where was the man? Can a woman herself commit adultery?). Moreover, His compassionate love towards the woman challenges His adversaries to become aware of their own sinfulness. Many commentators have noted that in the context of the episode, the “sin” referred by Jesus stands for the sin of adultery. In other words, they dare not throw stones at the woman because they themselves are guilty of the same sin that they accuse her.

Time and again in the gospel, the Lord tells us not to pass judgment on people's faults, not to accuse, not to condemn anyone. The problem in life is that we are too quick to criticize others. Ignorant of our own weaknesses.

If we act with empathy when dealing with people, we will make our lives a lot easier and more peaceful. When we are tempted to judge others, we should examine ourselves and see if we behave any different. Christ invites us to look at us and others with compassionate eyes. Then, we will see that the same eternal spark that lights us, and lights everyone around us as well.

Go, and from now on, do not sin.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Fr. Xavier Bazil". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light purple rectangular background.

**Fr. Xavier Bazil**  
*Parochial Vicar*