

**Devotion – Week of April 3, 2022 – Fifth Week of Lent**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.” *John 8:10-11*

Imagine what it must have been like for this woman to hear these words. How powerful are the words of forgiveness when we sincerely apologize for what we have done. We all do wrong; we all commit sins every day of our lives. Our world today never lets us forget how broken we all are. It even rejoices in the downfall of another when his or her own sins are revealed for all to see.

Thankfully, God doesn't treat us like the world treats us. God is heartbroken over our failures, but not just because we have broken a cosmic ordinance, but because he knows that our sins keep us from being happy. God's broken heart is a fountain of mercy washing over us.

Henri Nouwen had these thoughts about Jesus:

Your heart is broken, the heart that did not know hatred, revenge, resentment, jealousy, or envy, but only love, love so deep and so wide that it embraces your Father in heaven as well as all humanity in time and space. Your broken heart is the source of my salvation, the foundation of my hope, the cause of my love. – *Heart Speaks to Heart*, p. 36)

As we approach Holy Week, I hope you will remember these words. Jesus' broken heart healed ours.

*Jeanne*