

In the second reading St. Paul writes

- “I consider everything as a loss
- Because of the supreme good
- Of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Knowing Jesus Christ our Lord is a blessing beyond compare. Paul says everything else is a loss. Knowing Jesus Christ is a supreme good. If we consider ‘knowing Christ is a supreme good’, what would we do to know Him and to know Him better? If everything but knowing Jesus Christ is a loss, do we even consider how much in life we are really losing? Since we can take nothing with us when we die, how much time are we losing pursuing that which will ultimately be lost?

The two important questions are:

- ‘How do I get to know Jesus Christ better’?
- ‘How much time do I spend trying to know Jesus Christ better’?

Besides Jesus Christ talking to us directly (as He has done to others during His lifetime and thereafter) the best way for us to know more of Jesus Christ and to know Him better, is through our reading of the Gospels and prayerfully reflecting on what he says and does. If Jesus Christ is our supreme good, each one of us should be spending as least some time daily to know Him better. The Gospels are not the only source. There are many good spiritual books providing insights into His life and actions.

One of the greatest traits of Our Lord Jesus Christ is His infinite mercy. We see that clearly in today’s Gospel. The self-righteous scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the very act of committing adultery to Jesus to see what action Jesus would take against her. (It would seem very strange to be caught in the very act of adultery unless it was a setup. Since there is no mention of the man, perhaps it was a setup. And considering that the scribes and Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus, it might well have been a setup.)

For if Jesus said she should be stoned, they could accuse Jesus to the Romans who alone had life and death decision making. If he said, she should not be stoned, he would be going against the law of Moses. Jesus said the first stone should be thrown by anyone who was without sin. There were no takers.

Jesus asked her finally “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” Then He went on to say, “Neither do I condemn you?” Now consider that Jesus allowed the ones without sin to be the ones to throw a stone at her. Of all those present only Jesus was the one without sin. And yet He said, “Neither do I condemn you.” Jesus never condemns anyone. To me condemnation is self-inflicted.

Jesus is all merciful and all forgiving. It takes humility to recognize and accept our weaknesses and sinfulness. It takes trust in the Lord to go to Him time and time again in repentance and relying on the forgiveness and mercy of the Lord.