

brought about by our straying from the path of God's righteousness.

Jesus condemned sin. Yet even as he did, he loved the sinner and offered God's forgiveness. He said to the paralytic, "Take heart; son, your sins are forgiven," Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?' " (Matthew 9:3-5) He also challenged people to conversion. To the woman caught in adultery he said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way,

and from now on do not sin again." (John 8:11)

To sin means to see life through earthly eyes alone; to turn away from sin means to take on the likeness of Christ. There is no universal answer to how to do this, for every person is different. Our "how" depends on our gifts and responsibilities. The key to the "how" is taking time to see ourselves through God's eyes. As this becomes clearer, we can apply more easily God's message of love to complex life circumstances. Although the way we do this varies, God judges us by the way we incorporate the simple message of love given by Jesus into our daily lives.



For Reflection

What favorite stories from the Gospels speak to you most clearly the simple message of God's love?

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