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Then neither do I condemn you!

(John 8:11)

Don't judge!

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Dear friends of go4peace,

she was young and she had fallen in love, head over heels. Of course, she and her lover wanted to spend time together. This was happening despite an already existing marriage. The scribes and pharisees had caught them in the act. They dragged her in front of Jesus, who was teaching in the temple grounds. It was now a matter of life and death.

Jewish law was calling for death by stoning in these circumstances. She was full of fear – helpless and dependent. Would Jesus be on her side, and go against the law? Then he would be accused of lawlessness. If he would ask for the law to be upheld, then she would pay with her life. Jesus reacts masterful! He upholds the law whilst holding up a mirror to the prosecutors by saying: “Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her!” One after the other they start leaving, the older ones first. They feel like they’ve been caught because they know that they have stepped outside the law many times.

Jesus stays behind with the woman. Not one of the Jewish prosecutors had judged her. Now Jesus straightened up and helped the woman to get up. He let her experience God’s spirit – limitless compassion. “Then neither do I condemn you!” Graciously loved, her life is given a second chance.

Josef – a young artist- had been ill treated by his rivals. They had lied about him, trying to tarnish his reputation. When these things happened, Josef retreated – often into the countryside – and stayed silent for long periods. He didn’t want to be ruled and poisoned by negativity and wanted to continue to live in the community. Once, when he was asked about ‘his strategy’ he said:” I need plenty of time to myself – under the eyes of God – to think about and digest evil. Then I can let it go. It doesn’t rule over me any longer. Everything is OK again and I don’t have to condemn anyone!” Anyone who wants to enable life, who wants to find true life, should consider this advice. **“Don’t judge!”**

for the go4peaceTeam

Meinolf Wacker