

Daniel's Reflection for Week beginning 30th January - Releasing the Angel Within

The story of Jesus' meeting with the sinful woman shows that he not only sees a person's present state but also sees what one is capable of becoming.

The others looked at the woman and they saw a sinner who would always be a sinner. Jesus looked at her and saw a sinner who was capable of becoming a saint. Because saints are sinners who know they are forgiven.

One day someone came upon Michelangelo as he was chipping away with his chisel at a huge shapeless block of marble. He was surrounded by dust and splintered fragments. It was not a pretty sight. When asked what he was doing he said 'I'm releasing the angel imprisoned in this marble.'

We are called to set free the angel in each other -not to darken the light. We are called to make safe spaces of trust between us where all can be poured out without feeling judged or diminished. And when it is all poured out -the chaff and the grain together, we are called with careful hands to sift them, keep what is worth keeping and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

With Jesus, the 'soul-friend' knows our hidden self -the sins and failures and betrayals. And with Jesus too, the 'soul-friend' sees our inner light, -the gifts, graces and amazing power. Like patient midwives we wait and wait, with God's compassion, to bring to birth the small and struggling child of blessing longing to be free, in each other's soul.