

Kerr's Musings

(This has been posted on the *Apropos* website: www.apropos.org.uk)

Scriptural Inequality

The Gospels show us that we should scorn the demands of the misogynists of either sex that we should practice what they screech. The Scribes and Pharisees were fiercely denounced, the money-changers chased out of the temple with blows from a whip. Simon of Cyrene, his sons Alexander and Rufus, Malchus the servant of the High Priest are named. Doubtless they were converts, but Simon was initially forced to carry the Cross, and Malchus set out for the Mount of Olives as an enemy of Our Lord.

Women, however, tend not to be named and to be given the minimum necessary truth. The woman taken in adultery, being penitent, is simply told to sin no more. The Samaritan woman is simply told that the man she is living with is not her husband. So men were treated as men and women as ladies.

The fact that our Lord said 'husband' shows of course that He has a definition of marriage. There are some who claim to be Christians and yet wish to have another definition of marriage. What then is a Christian? One who professes respect for Our Lord? Muslims do, but they're not Christians. Conduct?

In 1187 Saladin was reluctant to grant terms for the surrender of Jerusalem. Bailian of Ibelin, negotiating with Saladin for the surrender of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, secured terms by threatening to resist to the last man and to burn all Jerusalem including the al-Aqsa. The basic terms were that if you paid a ransom or another paid your ransom you went free. No ransom meant slavery. The Patriarch Heraclius, ransomed himself only and headed off with the Church funds and treasure while much of his flock went into slavery (et tu, N). Al-Adil, Saladin's brother, asked for a reward of 1000 slaves for his services. He got them and set them free (*'The wolfhounds are right and the cannibals are wrong'* as a character in Solzhentisyn's *First Circle* remarked). This indicates the unanimous view of the American intelligence agencies that Iran does not have a nuclear weapons programme is correct. Why would they want to slaughter the Palestinians and reduce the al-Aqsa to radioactive ashes?

No a Christian may be a serial adulterer but he will not deny Our Lord's definitions, for he knows that they are given by the Second Person of the always-existing Trinity, Incarnate in Nazareth, with all that flows therefrom.