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AD-200901012 The Woman Caught in Adultery

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Prog #: 2

Theme: "The Woman Caught in Adultery -  
Released Life"

Text : John 8:1

Time : 17:45 Min.

Note: Has RIR tape.

Festo - "The Woman Caught in Adultery - Released Life" Frog #2

John chapter 8:1, a very familiar passage to most of you. They took this woman, early in the morning, how they managed to do that no one knows exactly, however, they took her, and they walked her to the Temple. And the Lord Jesus was in the Temple, in the morning, teaching with a crowd of people listening to Him. And they dragged this miserable human being, dragged the pieces into the presence of Jesus Christ. For she was in pieces, definately, socially, morally, in everywhere, psychologically she was all broken up. Can you imagine a human being being dealt with like that? But, of course, to the religious authorities this woman was not a human being, just a case. They presented a case to the Lord Jesus, not a human being.

So, religion has authority. The authority brings the woman, the woman stands before the teacher, the lesson stops. And all who were listening to the teaching all fixed their eyes on the woman, frozen. There she stood, and then the case. "Here we have a case Master, according to the law of Moses she should be stoned. And she knew it. Don't make a mistake about it. She knew she was guilty, you didn't have to preach about it. And they simply stated their case basing it on the authority of the scripture. It was written in the scripture, they took it, not from their heads, they used the book. So she stood there. "Moses commands us to stone this kind of a case. What do you say about it?" Of course, there are motives. So, here is religion then, unfeeling, condemning, judgemental, if you like, here is try

orthodoxy. Lifeless to the core. And can this kind of religious authority ever redeem? Has it got power to put the pieces together? Don't you see that the authority of the scribes and the pharisees are absolutely helpless when it comes to putting this broken life together? They simply did not have means by which to do it. They had means by which to condemn, they had means by which to arrest, but means by which to put the broken pieces together, they did not have. And, waiting for the Master, of course, He never looked up. I can't, I don't like to theologise about this, why He looked down. Many people have suggested all sorts of things. I like to suggest a much simpler reason. Knowing Him, if you follow Him in the New Testament you can't miss it, that He simply wanted to save the broken hearted woman more embarrassment. She was already broken up and He did not like to add to the burden, in order to save her more shame He turned away and looked down, and began to write. What a wonderful Saviour. Do you see? He never makes the guilty more guilty, because that doesn't help. And He intends to save the woman, not to ruin her life.

So, He looked down, and they pressed Him, "Please give the answer. Please give the answer." Then He raises gently as He used to do, as it was His custom, with that gentleness of the Redeemer, with the firmness of the one who can restore. And He looks at them and He says, "Well, gentlemen, if anyone among you has never been guilty of that sin, or of the desire to commit that sin." It's not a question of external act, and that was the point of morality, they put the whole burden on the act instead of realising that it was deeper than the act. "If any

among you has never been guilty of the same thing, or of the desire to do the same thing, please be the first one to throw your stone because you have got a right to do it." He did it a second time, just exactly as He saved the woman from more embarrassment, He save the pharisees and the scribes further embarrassment, so He turns away. This time not for the sake of the woman, but for their sakes, and He looks down, writes again. No more word, not a strong judgement, a very, very touching reality.

And one after the other, from the presence of the burning light, they walked out, or they run away. I suppose only the group which was listening to Him remained, and the woman. The pharisees went out, the accusers went out. So, here is the Lord now beginning to deal with the case of the fallen woman. He has now taken it from the hands of those who were breaking it, and breaking it, and He is going to handle the case because He can. He has got the authority, not to condemn, but to forgive. He has got the authority, not to break, but to build. Not to ruin, but restore. And, listen how beautifully He deals with the case, raising Himself again He looks around and He sees the woman standing in front of Him. What a standing. Can you imagine? You see, you want to see the presence of the purity there, and you want to see the human being absolutely steeped in mud and sin. You can never produce more opposite two. Here are the greatest opposites ever. The Son of God and a broken-hearted guilty woman.

And Jesus deals with her like this. For the first time He addresses her. You know, up to that moment this woman had not

been addressed as a person. She was not a person yet. You see, sin has a way of ruining personality. You remain simply a wreck of guilt, shame, despising, hating yourself. Supposing you came and said to the woman, "Oh, don't worry my dear lady, all you need is just to accept yourself." You know this talk, accepting yourself. What do I accept about myself? I'm finished, all I can do is to hate myself. I am a ruin of my sins, I am guilty. I simply don't know where to look. Put something on me and then help me to accept myself, please. And so the Master turns around, He is dealing with fallen humanity, you know, and we are all involved in the case of this dear lady, please, unless we want to be pharisaic in our attitude.

"Lady," or "Woman," but it is really the same as "Lady." "Lady." What a shock. Can you imagine it? "Lady." Because the word the Lord Jesus used was exactly the same as He used for His mother in John chapter 2 at ? of Galilee. Exactly the same word. Addresses this woman, this poor character with the same word He addressed His mother Mary. Can you imagine that? This is where redemption begins, she is no longer a case, she is a precious human being. That is redemption. It's beginning. She begins to feel, "What? Can He speak to me as if I were a human being?" And then He goes on and He says, "Where are they? No one condemns you?" And for the first time she answers back, beautifully. Redemption is tremendous. She is given courage to speak back. She is given courage to answer because love has authority to restore what morality can kill. Orthodoxy can simply freeze, but love warms up. She <sup>is</sup> beginning to warm up, feelings are coming up, she is

beginning to accept herself as a person. Accepted in the beloved, Ephesians, then we accept ourselves. We are given courage to look at ourselves in repentance. Do you realise that repentance simply begins because you are accepted. Christian repentance does not begin because you are condemned. Condemnation leads to despair, Love leads to repentance.

And now, what does she say? "No one Lord." What a confession. "No one." And then she adds that beautiful word, "Lord." Do you see that this is a testimony? "Lord." Which means, "The Lord of my life. I am a client to mercy, a candidate of grace, I stand here complete simply because you took up my case. You are my Lord." "No one Lord." And then she waits a little bit, but she could see the eyes of redeeming love. "No, neither do I condemn you." What a tremendous word. "Neither do I condemn you," because, you see, condemnation is despair, it cannot release, it cannot restore, it cannot put the broken pieces together. "No. Neither do I condemn you. You go." Beautiful words. Released now. She came never to go. She came expecting to die, and now she's given permission to go. Freedom. And then another word. Don't only just go, "Go, and I give you permission not to sin again," Isn't that tremendous. Can you imagine the good news in the ears of this woman? Vibrations of life are beginning to come. She is being permeated by complete release, from guilt, from shame, she goes out of the room, I don't know how, jumping, rejoicing. She simply can't put herself together, she's going to tell the story whether you like it or not. It's not going to be a question of, "I'll train you to give your testimony," it is flowing out. If you

meet her at the door, the first word is, "What a Saviour."  
What do you mean? You are a wreck. "Of course I was a wreck when I entered, but I'm going out complete." Complete in what? "Complete in Christ Jesus." Some good music in that room, you come and see it. You simply couldn't stop the enthusiasm of released life. She has to love Jesus, she can't help it. She loves much because she has been forgiven so much. That is how Christ deals with fallen humanity.

May I add a word? Do you know that this Bishop in front of you was exactly this case? I still am, in a sense, except for forgiveness. But when the Lord Jesus picked me up on the road of life in Uganda, through a young African who had only been a christian three hours before he met me. Three hours in a church, an Anglican church, accepted the Lord. Three hours later, after he had accepted the Lord, met a friend on the road. Only three hours a christian, and stopped me, beaming joy, shattering reality, and told me in the simplest language what Christ had done for him in the church a short while ago. And I was coming from a drinking party, an agnostic. Very tough, politically minded, a very hard nut to crack. And yet the Holy Spirit used a very simple word of that man to crack that hard man. And he gave his testimony, and he finished by putting a few things right. On the road, not in a home, not in a church, but on the road. We both had bicycles and he stopped me as a friend and he said, "Now that Christ has come my way I want you to forgive me," and specifically he asked me to forgive him for a number of things which had happened between us, and it made sense. Right on that road. As he went away, he

didn't convert me, he did his piece and he went his way, and he left me under a shattering conviction.

An hour later I was telling the story that I too had been accepted by the Lord. Alone in my room, it was not in a church. And you know, I have never been the same, you can't be the same. Jesus and fallen humanity is a remarkable recreation. It took a word to create the whole world. It took the Son to put broken lives together. My dear friends, as you stand here, and as we close now, I'm going to ask you one single question, have you really experienced that presence of Christ which releases you? Or are you under pressure somewhere? Something broken and you are trying to mend it and you can't, because you have no means? Only the hands which bled on Calvary can mend broken lives.

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