

Reference

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**JDPUN Rights**

John Francis  
W. H.

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through  
company, in the new community which Jesus brought about ~~in His death and resurrection~~  
And therefore we are here today to look at that aspect, Christ the Renewer. I am going to  
take a Scripture and look up to extreme incidents, actual happenings that we may then be  
brought into focus of what we mean by Christ being the Renewer. You see, the great aspects  
of sin is this, that it completely corroded and disintegrated that which God made complete  
and whole and that was man. As man was made in the image of God, as you know, he was a  
whole man. He was ..... to the man. He was a man who lived a life in the light of  
God, not in the darkness or selfishness, not in the corrosion of hatred, not in loneliness  
or prejudice. He was man whole and he lived as a whole man in a whole society, the center  
of which was God Himself. That was a man as created. That was a man as God intended him  
to be but we are not what we were intended to be and here redeeming love comes our way.  
And here a new creation takes place. That is why right is at the center of renewing the  
man. Yet we are dealing with the tremendous power and a God which can integrate that dis-  
integrated, which can bring the fragment of men and women and out of the fragments, create  
a whole man, a whole woman, a whole society. This is why St. Paul uses the lovely ex-  
pressions like "wherefore, <sup>therefore,</sup> when any man, any woman is in Christ, he becomes a new creation, a fresh  
person altogether." Of course you are speaking to Christians and you know the Gospels and  
the letters and the Epistles ~~xxxx~~ all written for Christians, remember that. Not for the  
un-Christian people the messages of the Book in the New Testament are all intended for the  
Christian. The challenge is not for the outsider, the challenge is for the Christian to  
be what Christ meant them to be, <sup>again</sup> Then the Word will become aware, here are men once  
fragment/but are now whole! Now wonder when in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came down  
and ..... to the risen Lord upon those simple men of Galilee the group was  
completely fresh that it sounded as if they dropped from the sky. You could .....  
and yet they were ordinary fishermen like..... James & John and you know they were  
really fragmented even when they lived with the Lord. In the Upper Room they were in strife  
over who should be regarded the most important. They were ordinary people like ourselves.  
..... in fact, .. they were fighting among themselves in His presence.  
So you can take heart, you are..... only one! You've been fighting among yourselves but  
remember, you don't shock Him. The Renewer is here to deal with a group of Christians who  
are not respectable in His sight but just what they are and if you are what you are, you  
simply can sit in His presence,..... this afternoon as you are and take heart.  
The Renewer is for you. Christ is the Renewer. Let us take the incidents to begin with.  
..... incident in John Chapter 8. This was before He was crucified of course. John  
Chapter 8, Verse 1. In some of your books the first "..... might not have been  
put in, but I believe they are about the record of a fragment of a broken life, of a  
religious woman, I believe, she belonged to Israel and hardly any Israelites would be  
regarded as irreligious. And so we read in John, Chapter 8, Verse 1, it starts with "But"  
because Verse 53 of the chapter previous is part of this. "They went into the temple and  
the crowd went into their house but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. And in the morning

He came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and talked to them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and <sup>blaming</sup> her in the midst they said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now, in the Law of Moses, Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?' This they said, of course, to test him that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground and as they continued to ask him, He stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her' and once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground but when they <sup>2400</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>heard</sup> it (what he had said,) they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they?? Has no one condemned you?' and she said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more. Go and do not sin again.' Now I want to take the first incident I remarked, remember?? Christ the Renewer. It is ~~xxxxx~~ the case of a human being and let us not call her a sinner. The Old Testament did not call her that. <sup>here, the record</sup> The New Testament according to John says the woman was caught in the act of adultery and then the religious group, the Pharisees and the scribes, those who were concerned about putting men and women ~~right~~, those whose responsibility was to see that every Israelite was in a right relationship with Jehovah, those whose responsibility was to bring sinners so that the sinners may be renewed in their relationship with God, the pure God, the Holy God, the perfect God. Therefore in their zeal they were going to correct all these sinners and to bring them to where they could be judged, they could be put right, they could be disciplined, they <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~of~~ could be changed, perhaps. They used the Lord and the Lord was correct because the Lord was <sup>as a</sup> ~~astounded~~ <sup>astounded</sup> of God's people. ~~Is Israel...~~ and the scribes were ~~presentable~~ <sup>presentable</sup> who studied of the Lord carefully..... the Pharisees were <sup>must</sup> ~~represented~~ <sup>represented</sup>, the very conservative the people of the Lord,..... <sup>stars</sup> There are two groups who are concerned to see that ~~these~~ people are right and that if anyone goes wrong he should be corrected and he shall be put right. They caught this woman in the act of adultery. How they did it, we don't know. However, that's what we are told. And they brought this woman and I don't know how long they brought this woman and I want you to see the approach. We are talking about life corroded, life smashed, life <sup>badly</sup> ~~burdened~~ to the core because that's exactly what sin is. This woman had missed the mark. This woman had missed the target for living. This woman has no center of ..... the center of her lust. This woman has been taken advantage of by her wickedness. This woman has been taken advantage of by humanity, <sup>it's</sup> ~~of~~ a human being using her like a thing, exploiting her for themselves and that's exactly what sin does, an exploitation, a misuse of humanity, a life without a target, a life without a center, a life corroded, empty of meaning, frozen ~~within~~ and ashamed of itself, ~~we~~ <sup>who</sup> tell me, who could ~~entertain~~ <sup>put</sup> these pieces together? The Law? ..... and the Law goes to/corrector and the Law is presented by the scribes and the Pharisees, the standards are very high, morality is

..... <sup>Could it be C,</sup> and more zealous, then they are going to deal with this case of  
a broken woman, corroded by her sin, shattered by repeated defeats, weakened to the core, she  
couldn't love herself, there was nothing more to her. 4e., when you fail & fail & fail.  
You hate yourself. 5..... In fact you are surprised that <sup>there are</sup> many more people  
are committing suicide because usually the fact that one is so weak and breaking the  
standards one respects, makes you hate yourself. This woman must have hated herself ~~and~~  
ever so badly. Let us see how the Lord is going to deal with her. The religious repre-  
sentatives..... they went to the woman and they arrested her and the recorder told  
us the very painful story. They dragged her, I don't know how <sup>far</sup> back from the suburbs  
of Jerusalem, perhaps from the areas of the city which were notoriously known where the bad  
people of the streets, the prostitutes lived and they dragged <sup>her</sup> and they brought  
her off all places <sup>to</sup> into the temple. Now that's where the terrible..... for a person  
caught in adultery to be brought into the temple without the sacrifice <sup>there is</sup> nothing to protect  
you.....! Where do you look when you're brought like that? Do you look  
at yourself?? Do you have anywhere to look, any comfort, any consolation? Nothing at  
all, a person completely frozen. The authority that takes her has no authority to renew  
her. The best they can do is simply to treat her like an object, a thing. Now they dragged  
her along, beautiful orthodox, but there was no love in orthodoxy, it was religion without  
a message, a religion without feeling, a religion without love, a religion without under-  
standing and the poor lady of course in their eyes she was only a case of a sinner. They  
dragged her <sup>into</sup> the temple, perhaps to use her as an exhibit to catch Jesus Christ.  
Just an exhibit. They made her stand in front of a whole crowd of people who were listen-  
ing to Jesus that morning. In the midst, not at the side, in the center, the eyes which  
gazed upon that poor woman, the piercing looks of human beings and the aloofness of this  
teacher and the Pharisees. Their air was thoroughly very chilly, much much more chilly than  
anything we have experienced this morning. Spiritually this was a terrible atmosphere of  
deadliness other than one important fact and this is where John gets excited. You read  
carefully because as he stood in the center and of course they accused her saying, 'Moses,  
told us that this kind of case should be stoned to death, what do you say?' And the  
Master looked at the woman, the Renewer. I want you to see that it was always the compassion  
of the Redeemer which was the renewing of..... It was always the compassion, not  
the teaching. He had a tremendous teaching but behind the Word was compassion and in the  
presence of this unique compassion, the woman stood waiting for her final word/sentence,  
and the Lord Jesus turned away from them and He looked upon the ground. I can't try to  
tell you why, but if I know His mind, if I know that He was the loving Saviour, if I know  
that it is He who invited Zacharias and He who told the story of the Prodigal Son and  
ultimately it was He who hung on the cross of Calvary in blood and sweat and love flowed  
out, I know why He looked down in order to save <sup>that</sup> ~~an~~ embarrassed sinner extra  
embarrassment. In order that this poor thing, this poor woman may be saved another burden,  
another crashing wave. She had had enough and she was being drawn along. She had had





Calvary for this woman and for you and for me and in going that way. He made it very clear that you and I can experience the continuing renewal in His Presence. I believe believe..... in His Presence. That woman now hears another word and the woman hears the Lord say, 'Lord do I condemn you, my dear lady? Go and sin no more or go and do not sin again.' Can you imagine those beautiful words of the renewal, the power *not to sin again*? I am not yet condemned. I did not come..... already condemned people. I..... already. I did not come..... the burden..... I came to remove the burden. I did not come to make Christians miserable and rejected. I came to usher them into the Presence of renewed life. I came by the prison to release the chain and I came to the poor that the poor may become rich in Me. The lost may find their way back to the Father. The.... *the*.... may be filled with laughter. The burden may feel light like a little bird with wings. I came not to condemn but to give permission and the permission He gives comes from Calvary. Go and do not sin again and the woman listened and..... Got You mean I'm released? ..... You can go home. You didn't come here, you were brought here but now I give you permission to go. You no longer need people to drag you. Now I give you the power and the authority to become alive again. And the woman was excited and then she heard another word 'and do not sin again. I am not giving you permission to sin because that would condemn you again. That's why Christians make a big mistake when they say talk about..... *grace*..... may encourage a Christian to sin. If he or she had permission to sink Grace never encourages a man or woman to sin. It saves men and women from sin for we are saved by grace. If it is grace and I think because God is gracious I can commit another sin. I am absolutely a stranger to grace. Grace is love I don't deserve. This woman here, 'Go home and do not sin any more.' Can you trust me Lord Jesus? If it's possible to trust,..... to go..... and sin no more? And the words came from the Lord, 'Go and sin no more.' Those were powerful words of the Saviour who died on the Cross because it was the same Saviour who went to Calvary who was liberating us. This was His releasing power, the same one who hung on the Cross at Calvary and when He speaks His word to you, 'Go home and sin no more' those very words become an authoritative power to give you authority over sins. They become a source of power, a dynamic in you to *value*..... and before I quit, just a few remarks about another person. This time it's not a woman. It is another person we read about in the New Testament. It is St. Paul. St. Paul, a Jew, a wonderful Pharisee, a tremendous....., a religious person, but not released at all, a man who did his best to make his religion so practical, so outworking..... that he never completely obeyed..... Years and years and through the training and through the activities and through the..... the best he knew how, Paul remained as dry as a bone spiritually without ever having authority to get there until on the road to Damascus he meets the Renewer again. This time it was the other side of the Cross. He had died on Calvary, risen from the dead, was now in glory, he had come down in the Holy Spirit, the same Jesus, the same glorified Christ, *xxx*



glorified through His death. He meets this ~~corroded~~ Pharisee, a big ~~got~~ of a man, tied with hatred and still hating some more, no longer secure and trying to be secure by removing those whom he did not like, making himself an enemy to those with whom he had nothing to do very much and Paul was so self-centered, so completely frozen that this man knew nothing about the renewing power until he met the risen Saviour on the road to Damascus and there the Renewer did another miracle. I want you to see Paul moving full of hatred, full of resentment, full of pride, a <sup>good</sup> Pharisee, a high moralist, ..... an enforceable ~~case to deal with~~ case to deal with, too good to be renewed. As most of us may be ..... the greatest obstacle to His renewing love is that we are too good. .... you simply could not find anything. You read Philippians 3 which says, "According to the righteousness which a man can get by keeping ..... I was blameless. .... There are some characters which are blameless here ..... good evangelicals. .... Do you know that you can be very, evangelical and very dry? It is true. It happens that we can be orthodox in our thinking, we can be very religious, we can be zealous, enthusiastic like Paul but very, very dry, so dry that we can even kill people and think that we are serving God, so dry that if you don't agree with my way of my theological thinking, then I write you off completely and yet I do it in the name of my risen Saviour and in the name of evangelical cause. Of course I don't take you but I'm just being faithful, so faithful that I put you in the cold and ..... Now this kind of attitude ..... who claimed to be evangelical, ..... God-loving, faithful to the Bible, you couldn't be more faithful than Paul. He was so faithful that when he thought the Christians were wrong he determined to kill them. That was faithful, that was how zealous he was. Then the next time he persecute And the words are remarkable. Renewal always begins in the Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Revival begins there over night, and as we live this wonderful ..... today, it can be ..... experience, particularly to those of you who feel dry. I do get dry, if you don't mind. .... Again and again ..... dry patches ..... with your Saviour. .... when you don't know what to do, can't even put your hand on any particular thing, yet you sense a cloud is there. You don't know what has gone wrong but sometimes you do but you are reluctant to admit it. However, Paul, on the road, met this remarkable man. I don't have to tell you the story. An amazing glory comes in the light and it sheds its beams around him. In the shining light of revelation, he catches the vision of Jesus ..and.. Him..... crucified. ~~at that time~~ And the Lord addresses him so, "I know you by name. Why are you persecuting me?" The greater become the smaller. The Almighty puts himself at the disposal of a man. He who should have a limited ..... because he had every possible way of doing it now puts him under Paul. Why are you persecuting me? I am the weaker, you are the stronger. I am not the powerful, you have been the powerful one. Poor Paula In that light she shook from the revelation that she had covered something unique.

The renewing power that at.....for there and then.....Lord, what shall I  
 I - what do you want me to do? And the Lord Jesus speaks to the Pharisees. Go into the city.  
 It's very similar to the woman. Go into the city. They'll tell you what to do. You are  
 released now.....I suppose Paul expected.....  
 to act in retaliation.....There is no renewal in retaliation.  
 There is no renewal when I react.....against another brother. There is no  
 freshness when I act in bitterness because another person acted bitterly to me. Resentment  
 against resentment. Harsh words against harsh words. We go on in those, those....circles  
 of dryness and complete emptiness and and.....and he says to Paul 'Go into  
 the city, you are released.' And Paul was completely taken back. You mean no condemnation?  
 No condemnation. No retaliation? No retaliation at all. Actually, Jesus had retaliated  
 on Calvary. The best and the strongest retaliation is when love takes hatred and changes  
 it. It is when he who persecuted is forgiven that is the strongest retaliation ever. Now  
 as Christians are you experiencing this renewal? Is it as practical as.....is  
 practical? The message from this platform centers on the platform of Jesus Christ, on  
 the price He paid, on.....Him.....standing in your midst right now and standing  
 particularly by the side of those who feel defeated here. What is the sin that has been  
 corroding you? The case of the woman, is it being caught in those terrible.....  
 .....its plague on you that now you've given up.....out of  
 the mess?? I want to tell you, He was wounded upon our sin.....for our messes. He was  
 broken with a broken heart.....that you may experience complete healing. He was lifted up  
 so that when He.....they may experience complete renewal.  
 We are seeing this in Africa, I can tell you that, renewal and renewal again. Those who  
 are renewed need to be renewed again for this is a continuation. I want to read to you  
 from the beautiful letter I got from this party as I close Colossian 3:10-11. And there  
 we have the passage which I think I've been trying to say to you in a nut shell. Paul  
 says, "You have put on the new man, the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge  
 after the image of its Creator renewed. Here then there cannot be Greek, Greek.....  
 circumcised and uncircumcised,.....slaves, free men, but Christ  
 is All and in All and this renewal grants men and women.....We are brought  
 to the level where we ~~are~~ not say you are Greek, or African or English,.....  
 evangelically.....We all stand amazed as we look up and we see it is  
 renewing love in the blessed Holy Spirit.....releasing you,  
 in this corner, in that corner and releasing your relationships too. As the woman went home  
 she must have had the courage, the excitement of asking for forgiveness. As Paul went around,  
 instead of hating, he loved. There was a change. There was a complete new man and.....  
 I've seen this happen among my people. It happened to me again and again in my ex-  
 perience.....

at the ..... level, ..... ty, in the church, among the neighbors. - these people whom God has put in your way ..... Christian. You may not realize that the men and women among whom you move are put there; especially for you. You rub shoulders with them and then you learn how to walk as a renewed person. If there were no people there rubbing you the wrong way, you would never learn how to walk. Jesus walked among those very people, some, some judged, some hated, then out of that he showed his renewing love in this. We need to learn that this begins in the presence of the Lord Jesus and Him Crucified. It is love overcoming. It is love embarrassing. It is love setting free. It is love giving permission to "Sin no more." This is what you hear.

I can tell you the case of a man given permission to be released. Back home, 45 yrs old, pagan, illiterate, never knew anything about Christ, and then he was brought by grace through the preaching of Christians into the presence of Jesus and him crucified. That man was so changed that within a matter of a month, when impure thoughts came into his heart, he literally went outside from a meeting and vomited. This is standard! What a sensitivity! A man steeped in paganism, completely born there, no background in Bible training, now in the light of calvary, that smashing, invading love, this man is <sup>taken</sup> ~~recreated~~, recreated, renewed, ~~and his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~clean~~ <sup>clean</sup> so clean that when impure thoughts came, he even went out and physically vomited. A festivity//??.....

the Holy Spirit has renewed the personality. Is this your case? Do you sense that sensitivity? You know I find that after I have gone on with the Lord, sometimes I grow this?? - the impact of the renewal is that you begin to move <sup>with</sup> that sensitive touch in the heart. You see, just jealousy ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~... don't you think the time has come when you can say, My heart has been renewed and I'm going to write a letter to that person and ask for forgiveness. Yes, the posts of England may be very busy when God begins to work. It is true. And homes of your country may experience a renewed coming to put a few things right. Then Jesus becomes the light - that's when we enjoy lovely teachings, when the teachings become so embarrassing that you walk away to do something about it.

I remember one Christian helped me in my past experience of embarrassment -- I was renewed and then the Holy Sp saying to me, it was not a sentimental experience. It is practical. You have to go and ask forgiveness from your African brother who was a pagan five miles away and I had to go 5 mi -- I did not fly like an angel, I walked. And walking was embarrassing, and to get there was hard and yet it was a tremendous relief to tell that African man, I love you. I want to ask you to forgive me for my hatred of you. He said, I knew it! And I said, Yes, you knew it. Now it's over. Then he embraced me and began to weep. ; Now he is a Christian. I don't mean I converted him. I mean I shared with him the embarrassment of a renewed life, the release of .....

So may God bless you, dear friends. Ask the Spirit of God to make you practical. Let the renewal begin in the convention. Write letters if it is necessary, move in

the direction of His redeeming love, for this is what we need. This is what South Africa needs, this is what Burundi needs, this is what the States need in America, this is what your bleeding isle of England needs - Christians who are as practical in their outworking as calvary is practical. Let us pray