

Fifth Sunday of Lent:  
Is 43:6-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11

## **Liberation to New Life** **by Deacon Rafael Mendoza**

The fifth Sunday of Lent provides us the promises of New Life.

In the first reading, though exiled in Babylon, though the Israelites had failed to fulfill their covenant with the Lord, He would still deliver her out of pure grace, **“See, I am doing something new”** (Is 43:19a).

God was going to do a new thing for Israel, something that would appear unexpectedly, like a sprout from barren soil. Instead of turning a sea into dry land, He would turn the dry land into waterways.

*Liberation from exile brings New Life!!*

The Gospel presents to us the woman caught in adultery. Have you ever been caught stealing or lying, or even over-speeding? You get that sinking sensation in your gut, you know there is no escape. You will have to pay the penalty. This is how this woman must have felt – hopeless, ashamed, ostracized, fearful for her life, since the penalty for adultery is death by stoning.

The scribes and Pharisees took her to Jesus, to see if they can force him to make an unpopular decision. But Jesus didn't react the way they reacted. He understood exactly what they wanted to do. He also understood the fear, the regret, the shame that the woman was feeling. And so, instead of condemning her, he gave her another chance. He restored her freedom and her dignity. Jesus didn't ignore or excuse her sin – he acknowledged it and told her to **“go and sin no more.”** But at the same time, he didn't condemn her.

Imagine how grateful she must have felt, how relieved. Her worst sins had been exposed for all to see, and her judge had forgiven her. He had given her another chance. She was offered the possibility of a new life in a new relationship with God.

*Liberation from sin brings New Life!!!*

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