

**5th Sunday of Lent
April 6-7, 2019**

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Living Catholic in the 808: He Saved My Life!

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of
Our Lady of Peace**

"He saved my life!" Imagine the thrill and joy of being rescued from death. Think of the deep gratitude that one should have for the person responsible for this. This was the situation that the woman in today's gospel found herself in. Without Jesus' intervention, she would have likely been executed. As Jesus saves her, he teaches us some powerful lessons about salvation.

We are reminded that God saves us from slavery to our past. All of us have made mistakes which still haunt us today. We have a hard time forgiving ourselves. We find it difficult to forgive others for their previous misdeeds. But God invites us to "Remember not the events of the past". Instead, God challenges us to focus on what lies ahead. The past is only important to the extent that it helps us to live in the present with hope for the future.

God calls us to recognize that the precepts of the law have no power to save us apart from our relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. While knowing the law can be helpful, really knowing Christ is so important. The woman caught in adultery was saved because of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. True religion is not primarily about rules; it is about a relationship with God that guides our relationships with others.

Finally, we are asked to see that there is a difference between hating sin and loving the sinner. When Jesus saved the woman's life in the gospel, he did not save her from recognizing the wrong that she had been engaged in. He told her: "Go, and from now on do not sin any more". We have to be willing to judge right from wrong and be able to name sin for what it is. But we need to do that in a spirit of love and genuine concern for ourselves and others.

Whether we realize it or not, Jesus has saved our lives by his death and resurrection. He continues to save us as we are freed from our past, live our relationship with him, and are willing to hate the sin but love the sinner.