

# Year A - Third Sunday of Lent

## John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39, 40-42

*The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.*



On his way to Galilee, Jesus came to the town of Sychar. It was near the field that Jacob had long ago given to his son Joseph. The well that Jacob had dug was still there, and Jesus sat down beside it because he was tired from travelling. It was noon, and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy some food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus asked her, "Would you please give me a drink of water?" "You are a Jew," she replied, "and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus answered, "You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask him for the water that gives life." "Sir," the woman said, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water? Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us, and his family and animals got water from it. Are you greater than Jacob?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life." The woman replied, "Sir, please give me a drink of that water! Then I won't get thirsty and have to come to this well again." She also told him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship." Jesus said to her: "Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship God either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us God will save the world. But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth." The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

"I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now." A lot of Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus. They came and asked him to stay in their town, and he stayed on for two days. Many more Samaritans put their faith in Jesus because of what they heard him say. They told the woman, "We no longer have faith in Jesus just because of what you told us. We have heard him ourselves, and we are certain that he is the Saviour of the world!"



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Jesus loves us all



### Message

- It is the middle of the day, Jesus is thirsty so he asks the only other person at the well, a Samaritan woman, for a drink.
- Observant Jews and Samaritans had no contact, and the fact that she was there at the hottest part of the day, tells us that she was an outcast in the Samaritan society. This would have made her bucket ritually unclean to the Jews. (This may remind you of the story of the Good Samaritan)
- Even though Jesus would have known the woman's story, Jesus talks to her. By doing this Jesus is showing us that God loves everyone - no matter who we are or what we have done.
- Jesus shows the woman that he is Christ, the Messiah that she is waiting for, by knowing everything about her life even though he has never met her.
- The woman has come to the well not just to satisfy her physical thirst - she is also looking to satisfy her spiritual thirst and her journey in faith towards God.
- The woman returned to her community had told others about her encounter with Jesus and we are told that through her they came to meet Jesus and "Many more Samaritans put their faith in Jesus because of what they heard him say. ... he is the Saviour of the world!"

### Discussion Questions

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- I wonder why Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman even though Samaritans and Jews were not supposed to have anything to do with each other?
- I wonder what were the two sorts of water that the woman and Jesus were talking about
- I wonder what happened to the woman because of her meeting with Jesus
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he talked about 'living water'
- We heard Jesus and the woman talking a lot about water, I wonder when we use water at Church as a symbol of Jesus 'living water'
- During Lent we think about what our Baptism means for each of us and we try harder to live as followers of Jesus
- When we were baptised we were like the woman at the well, we came to know Jesus as our Saviour, and we are sent to share the love of Jesus with others.

