

MARCH 15, 2020  
Sunday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent  
John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39a, 40-42

### JESUS, THE LIVING WATER

“The young man came to the priest with tears in his eyes. His girlfriend had left him. The priest knew her and was not surprised by her capriciousness. Still, he tried to show as much sympathy as he could for the broken-hearted boy. At one point the young man stated she was "the most perfect girl" he had ever met. The priest stopped him, "Was she really all that perfect?" "Well," he admitted, "she did have her faults." For example, she always got him to do things for her but never reciprocated. But that only made him more crazy for her. And, yes, she did criticize a lot of things about him, the way he dressed, his friends, his job, how he ate, his driving... Once again that habit bonded him even closer to her. The priest was going to point out that those traits might not be so endearing in ten or twenty years, but what he said was, "Um." The young man continued. Talking about her put him in a kind of melancholy trance. The thing that most tore him apart was how she flirted with other guys in his presence. Jealousy now stabbed him as he thought about her with someone else. Unable to restrain himself, the priest asked him, "Do you think you would have been happy with her?" The young man was silent. He then answered honestly, "No." Then he quickly added, "But I would rather be miserable with her than happy without her." "John," the priest said, "she is not the one you want." Puzzled, he asked, "Who?" "The one you want," the priest said, "is God."<sup>1</sup>

This is the experienced of Moses and the Samaritan woman: both thirsted for water. In our First Reading, Moses cried out to God when the people thirsted for water in the wilderness and complained about the lack of water. The Lord instructed Moses “Strike the rock, and water will come out of it.”<sup>2</sup> While in our gospel a Samaritan woman

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<sup>1</sup> [www.stmaryvalleybloom.org](http://www.stmaryvalleybloom.org)

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 17: 6 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

came to draw water from Jacob's well but discovered the 'living water' that is, Jesus Christ. The situation and the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman open for us a glimpse of God's love for sinners and outcasts. "When a Samaritan woman showed up at the well, both were caught by surprise. Why would a Samaritan woman walk a mile and a half in the mid-day heat to fetch her water at a remote well rather than in her local town? She was an outcast and not welcomed among her own townspeople. He reached out to her, thus risking ritual impurity and scorn from his fellow Jews. He treated the woman like he would treat one of his friends - he greeted her and spoke at length with her even if the woman was an adulteress and public sinner as well. Jesus broke through the barriers of prejudice, hostility, and tradition to bring the good news of peace and reconciliation to Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles alike. He demonstrated the universality of the gospel both in word and deed. No one is barred from the love of God and the good news of salvation. There is only one thing that can keep us from God and his redeeming love - our stubborn pride and wilful rebellion."<sup>3</sup> God always initiated the first move for us to come back to Him. He will always willing to wait for us and open arms will accept, embrace and love us. He will fix our lives, guide us on the right direction and forgives us every time we fall.

"A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes she returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is

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<sup>3</sup> [dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org](http://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org)

a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together.”<sup>4</sup>

My sisters and brothers, Jesus Christ is giving us living water, His flesh and blood, His love and mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Everyday, every moment of our lives, He listens to us and be at our side. But the question is “Are we listening to Him and sit at His side?” Like the Samaritan woman, the conversation started with casual acquaintance until their relationship go deeper and find Jesus the living water. This is also an invitation for us: sit with Jesus, chat and listen to Him. If we put Jesus where he belongs, the world and our life just fall into place. During this Season of Lent and at the end of it, may we put the picture of Jesus back together properly in our lives. Similar to the Samaritan woman, may Jesus Christ be the ‘something more to life’ that we are looking for. And as we experience these days the Covid-19 pandemic, let us bend our knees in prayer and ask the Lord for strength and healing. We also ask the Lord that He may take care of our doctors, nurses, caregivers, and all medical practitioners, and those who are in medical research to find cure to this virus.

Let this be our prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, my soul thirsts for you. Like the Samaritan woman, give me the living water of your love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. Fill me with your Spirit that I may always sit beside you and listen to your words and live it every day by being compassionate, patient, and understanding to my family, and to those people around me. Also, as we experience this health crisis, may we say and pray: Divine Mercy, we trust in you. Amen.”

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<sup>4</sup> frtommylane.com