

Rectoría San Juan de Dios  
III Sunday of Lent, Cycle A  
Ex 17, 3-7; Psalm 95; Rm 5, 1-2.5-8; Jn 4, 5-42  
Fr Dante Gabriel Jiménez Muñoz Ledo

## The Interior Wellspring

The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman awakens in us feelings of tenderness, peace, and love. Many of us would want to sit at the edge of that well and receive from Jesus a more liberated and universal vision of our faith, a vision that would uproot us from our religious reductionism and make a spring of new life well up in us.

The Samaritan woman who always came to that same well realized that Jesus was the Messiah. No miracle was required, only the encounter with Jesus who, with His words, entered into her interior wellspring. He caused her to realize that faith is much more than ritualism; it is the gift that makes her a person before God.

We can dialogue with Jesus as that woman did and we can ask the most important questions of our life: Why, if I live my faith in the best way I can, does it seem that I don't quench my interior thirst? What is the true worship of God? Where is the water of life? If Jesus knows all that we have done—*"He told me all that I have done"*—do we recognize Him as the Messiah?

John the Evangelist wanted us to pause at this sign of the universality of God and of the recovery of our identity. Deep down all people have a fountain of life that is

the Spirit of God. But it is necessary to get rid of obstacles in order to draw from this living water, obstacles such as idolatry and nationalism or thinking that relationship with God is ritual worship and not personal. Or thinking of God as exclusive, greedy, or discriminatory.

From this image of the Samaritan woman, let us discover our own interior wellspring:

1-Let us discover our thirst.

The Samaritan woman expected to satisfy her thirst according to the ancient custom. What is our thirst? Where have we tried to satisfy it? Why do we continue to have a thirst for God? Perhaps it is because the water we drink is not turned into living water, a spring of life, in our deepest being—it doesn't reach the root. Perhaps because our relationship with God has been merely ritual worship and not personal.

2-Let us discover the gratuitous grace of God.

The apostle Paul tells us that *it is not easy to die even for a good man...but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners*. In other words, He died for us when it seemed that we deserved nothing.

The Samaritan woman at the well also discovered the gratuitous grace of God. If Jesus asked her for water, it was only as minimum show of solidarity with her. If we are to discover the gratuitous grace of God, we have to be in solidarity with all persons, beyond the barriers of politics, sects, and religions. With our conduct, we give a fundamental proof of humanity.

3-Let us discover the gift of God.

His gift is His Spirit, the energy of life and love. His grace conveys to us the ability to love at the deepest level. The external law depersonalizes or treats others as objects; the law of the Spirit personalizes and imparts a higher life that surpasses everything, even death.

The practice of love is the only thing that can quench our thirst and our anxieties about eternity.

The Spirit that personalizes us is the locus of the true worship of God. Our very existence is dedicated to what is good.

After the Well, how is our interior wellspring? Let us draw from it.