

3rd Sun Lent A... Samaritan Woman

Introduction...

Being a Catholic adds a surplus of meaning beyond the political, economic and cultural viewpoints of our day.

What do I mean by that?

We believe that there is something more than what we can see with our eyes.

There is something more than just the material universe.

There is something more than money, power and fame.

There is something more than physical beauty and raw power, than nice clothes and big cars.

When we see a beautiful sunset we see the majesty of a loving and beautiful creator.

When we see a lit candle there is more than just light in darkness represented.

When we bless ourselves with holy water

we believe that this is more than just water and more than just an ancient, meaningless ritual. This reminds us of our Baptism and our loyalty to Jesus and his way of living.

When we see the evils of ethnic cleansing and infanticide there is more than just human evil present. There is an evil power in our world that only God can overcome.

We believe that in life there is more than meets the eye.

Refrain... Listen to the Words of Jesus

II Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel tells us a story about a woman who was thirsty.

The imagery used is one of water...

The Samaritan woman comes to a well to get water.

The source of life-giving water is sitting near the well, resting.

The dialogue begins with the source of life-giving water asking the Samaritan woman for some water.

As the dialogue progresses she becomes more and more aware that this is no normal stranger...

she is drawn to this wonder-full man who promises her life-giving water...

This is more than just water from a well...

This is water that brings inner refreshment and healing,
inner energy and direction...

this is Spirit-ual water... God's very Spirit poured into our hearts.

This is what Jesus offered the Samaritan woman who came that day to the well to get water.

Refrain... Listen to the Words of Jesus

III What about You?

What about you and me?

For what do you thirst?

What do you want out of life, while on your life's journey?

Wealth, good health, a good job, fame –
or at least recognition of your worth,
a new car...

Do you thirst for anything more?

What about peace of mind and heart?

What about release from the fears and worries that so burden so many people?

You can have lots of money and still thirst for happiness and peace...

You can have nice clothes and drive a big car, have a large screen TV and even a Ipad...

and be in the state of constant anger and resentment and perpetual dissatisfaction?

Our culture so many times tells us that we will no longer be thirsty

if we own a lot of things, have a good job, wear nice clothes,

never grow old or suffer the diminishments of aging...

some of these are all good things,

some are unrealistic wishes...

but will they refresh our thirst?

Are they enough for our journey?

What happens if we lose one or two or several of life's blessings?

What happens when we grow older and begin to diminish?

What happens when suffering and pain enter our lives?

St. Augustine said it so well...

our hearts are restless til they rest in our loving God.

The woman at the well thirsted for the life-giving water that Jesus promises.
She listened to Jesus...

Refrain... Listen to the Words of Jesus

Conclusion

What do you want out of life?
Are you happy with what you have?
Do you have peace of mind and heart?
Do you recognize your blessings,
are you grateful for them...
or do you take so much for granted?

Have you given thanks to God for your blessings today?

These are good questions to ask yourself as we come together on this
Lenten Sunday...

Lent is a good time to examine ourselves and ask if we need a course
correction.

Lent is a good time to listen to the words of Jesus
and ask for the life-giving waters he promises...
peace of mind and heart, forgiveness and compassion,
encouragement and strength to follow in his footsteps.

Oh, one more item from the Gospel of today...

Like the Samaritan woman we come to Jesus to ask for life giving water,
spiritual water to run fresh in our lives...
to enliven, refresh, reinvigorate and energize our lives.

Like the Samaritan woman we disciples of Jesus are then challenged to bring
Jesus into our world – our homes, neighborhoods, our jobs, our city, our
culture.

St. Francis said it well...

we are to preach always,
and sometimes use words.

Let our lives be a living sermon like a well-watered garden
where God dwells

and the virtues are the fruit of our working in this garden
and God's watering the garden of our lives...

At communion time invite Jesus to bring you life-giving water.