

### **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 water we believe that this is more than just water and more than just a ancient, meaningless ritual.

When we see the evils of ethnic cleansing and infanticide there is more than just human evil present.

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.

## *From the Desk of Donald Ware, C.P.*

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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 Spiritual 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, a new car, fame – or at least recognition of your worth?

Do you thirst for anything more?

What about peace of mind and heart?

What about release from the fears and worries that 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 an 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 and wear nice clothes.

These are all good things, but will they quench 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**

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?

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, compassion, encouragement and strengthening to follow in his footsteps.

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

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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 of a well watered garden which God, the loving gardener, waters and brings forth the fruits of a virtuous life of integrity.

### **Conclusion**

As we continue with this Mass we offer ourselves to our loving Father along with Jesus.

We then remember Jesus' love for us shown at the Last Supper and poured out on the Cross where he bore the darkness and ugliness of sin...

We thank our loving God for the life-giving water which flowed from the side of Christ on the Cross.

At communion time we invite Jesus into our hearts to bring us the water of life.

And then we take that water of life into our everyday world.