

Lent 3

Wednesday, March 11

Looking toward Sunday, March 15

Scripture: John 4: 5-30

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

Questions:

1. What word/phrase stands out to you in this passage?
 - a. How does that word/phrase connect with your Lenten journey?
 - b. How does that word/phrase connect with your life?

2. In every other circumstance, this woman has been judged and condemned for her past and for who she is. But, when approached by Jesus at the well, she finds the opposite. Even though Jesus knows everything about her, he accepts her and offers love rather than judgment and condemnation.
 - a. How do you feel knowing that Jesus is aware of every aspect of your life, and yet still accepts you and offers you living water?
 - b. Have you ever felt “seen” by Jesus, or by another person? How has that impacted you?

3. Can we truly experience healing/forgiveness while simultaneously hiding something from Jesus? Or, while hiding something from ourselves?
 - a. Based on your response to the above: How has Jesus encouraged you to show up without hiding something/yourself?
 - b. Why is it important for you to be truly seen?

4. In conversation, Jesus offers the Samaritan woman “living water.”
 - a. What are you thirsting for most in your life right now?
 - b. Are there things you could do this week to open yourself to receive Christ’s living water?

5. What in this passage reflects your journey with Jesus? What in this passage reflects specifically your *Lenten* journey this year?

My prayer to Jesus this week is...

Return to the word/phrase that stood out to you as you began engaging with the text. Turn that word/phrase into your own prayer to Jesus.

Prayer of the Week

Lord Jesus, as you revealed yourself to the Samaritan woman at the well, reveal yourself to us here. Quench our thirst that comes from deep within, and wash us of our sin. Open us to receive your life-giving water, and send us forth as witnesses to all you have done. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Messiah and our Lord. Amen.