

Third Sunday of Lent - 2/24

"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." (John 4:10)

The Samaritan woman was in a hurry because she was a sinful woman. She had to get to the well when the good citizens of the town were not drawing water. Her concern that day was to get her water and be gone before anyone could accost her. She probably cringed when she saw the man sitting by the well. This could be trouble and she didn't want any hassles. She just wanted to get her water and leave. She was not looking for new life that day just some fresh spring water.

Sometimes the gift of love stands right before our eyes and we don't see it. We miss the loving person or the special moment because we are not looking for it. Our lives are filled with the concerns and worries of the day so we miss the simple but extraordinary glimpses of God that are offered. The miracles of reconciliation and redemption go unnoticed because there is just too much outside interference in the way.

Like the Samaritan woman we sometimes find isolation to be a safe haven. It may be lonely but at least we don't run the risk of ridicule and censure. We prefer the darkness that results from our sin to the light of salvation.

The good news is that God doesn't give up on us even when we have closed ourselves off from all the normal avenues of redemption. Just as Jesus sat waiting for the woman at the well during the hottest part of the day so too He waits for us even when we aren't looking for Him.

Jesus brought a new life to the Samaritan woman very unexpectedly. She had no idea when she woke up that day that her world would be changed forever. She had no expectations of becoming a prophet to the people. She only wanted to get to the well for her water. She only wanted to engage in a normal everyday routine.

Every day we go about our daily routines. We have our schedules to follow and our plans of action to implement. Even though we don't anticipate anything new in our world Jesus might be waiting by the water cooler or by the kitchen faucet. We will be different people from that moment forward because of a refreshing insight or because we now experience the courage to proclaim the love of God to those around us.

Reflection Questions

- 1. What insight is Jesus trying to present to me amid my daily routine?*
- 2. How does that insight change me as a person?*

Prayer: Jesus, give me Your Living Water even if I am not looking for it. Amen.