

Will you Give Me a Drink?

King of Glory Lutheran Church

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Seeking: Lent 3: John 4:5-24

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.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

God Incarnate (Jesus) was thirsty. He asked for a drink. Admitting His own need allowed the shunned woman to admit her need also. As we confess our own vulnerabilities, we can relate to the needs of others. Then God calls us to share Jesus' Living Water.

We gather together—
the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.
We gather together—
the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.
We gather together—
those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.
So come to the well,
come to the table.
Come, let us worship God. Amen.

How often do we forget? How often we forget that Jesus, fully human, had needs too. He says to the Samaritan woman, “Give me a drink.”

One might think that this whole story is a hoax at first. Jesus would not have had to take this particular route. Then He makes this request of a Samaritan woman, no less. Samaritans and Jews had this long-standing divide between them. Jews wouldn’t ordinarily by choice, speak with Samaritans. Then, Jesus is addressing a woman, again, something a man wouldn’t do, particularly in public. The number of cultural boundaries our Lord is crossing isn’t acceptable. But...you and I know, Jesus, fully God, is always ready to cross boundaries in order to teach.

Today, He teaches, by voicing His own needs. He is vulnerable with this unnamed woman. “Give me a drink.” He is thirsty.

What are we thirsty for? What are you thirsty for? Connection? Food? Rest? Justice? Peace. How about answers, or relief or companionship? Maybe we are thirsty for the Living God...more of His presence, His hope, His lovingkindness.

As Rev. Danielle Shroyer writes in the devotional, Jesus taught the disciples to ask for what they needed when praying. “Give us today, God, our daily bread.” (Pg 23 A Lenten Devotional. Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith.) We don’t have to hide our desires and wants from God. For God knows we need all these things before we even ask. But in voicing our requests, we allow ourselves not to be all powerful. We admit to God that God has what we want and not only that, but that God can provide for the essentials and our desires.

One of many twists in this story, is that we hear Jesus giving voice to His own needs. He is thirsty too. He demonstrates and models for us, that He cannot make it on His own. He needs God. He needs others.

Then in turn, the woman reveals her own vulnerabilities. She comes in the heat of the day so as to not mingle with the other women of the village. She’s an outcast because she’s had multiple husbands. Currently, she is living with a man who is not her husband. Jesus knows everything about her, and yet is still willing to interact with her. He invites her to be vulnerable.

What does vulnerability look and feel like? It invites honesty. Courage. Vulnerability builds relationship between people who care about one another. Of course it is risky. You call your dear friend to say, “I need to talk.” She says,

“Sorry I’m dusting!” There are times when vulnerability isn’t reciprocated. The one we choose to confide in, cannot handle our honesty or pain.

Our World Hunger story for today is about a rice farmer. His crop wasn’t growing well and he didn’t have enough to feed his family the whole year. Then he met the folks from ELCA World Hunger. They wanted to teach him new ways of farming that would increase the rice yield.

At first he was skeptical and didn’t want to be vulnerable. Now he is thrilled that he has enough rice to feed his family all year long and more to sell at market so he can buy the children’s school supplies. When we stand on the edge of vulnerability, it can be life-changing. God created us to need others.

For our woman at the well, this unexpected interaction with Jesus, transforms her life. Spiritually. Physically. Emotionally. She is either to brash to care, or gains courage from Jesus’ conversation. “You don’t have a bucket (silly man.) The well is deep! Where do you get this living water?”

Yet very soon, her request of Jesus flows out of her mouth. “Give me some of this living water. Give me some of this living water, so I won’t be thirsty or have to keep coming to this well.”

In many places on the African continent, women and children walk several miles a day, just to collect water. What you and I can obtain by simply turning on a faucet, they walk hours each day for a bucket or two. This precious water goes into meals. Washes clothes. Bathes bodies. Yet it might be water from a muddy hole, or a stagnant pool.

Where there is no fresh water and no sanitation processes, people get sick with typhoid fever, cholera and giardia. Millions of people around the globe suffer from these water caused diseases.

Will you give me a drink? We are all capable of donating even a little bit of money to World Hunger. The question is will we?

Jesus’ needed someone. The woman needed someone. Our thirsty brothers and sisters around the world need someone. Amen.