

## HOMILY FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

1. Water essential for life, go a long time without food but not without water
  - a. Importance of water as growing up
    - i. Farm, relatively small cistern, hauled water from Drayton about 9 miles away
    - ii. Sunday morning after Saturday night baths, we might run out of water , In winter might be 20 below, I might ride with Dad to get water at the water plant, Had to put pipe in the tank, run the water, the exhaust pipe directed to the valve so it would not freeze
  - b. Water becomes pretty valuable
2. Israelite People facing mirror image, hot and dry and no water
  - a. Expressing despair and doubt, what good wonders of leaving Egypt if die of thirst
  - b. Grumbling even raises doubt in Moses, he complains to God, rather than trusts God
  - c. This place called Meribah and Massah, becomes a place to be remembered sadly
  - d. A place where people hardened their heart and failed to trust God
3. At the well with the Samaritan woman water struggling with an inner sense of dryness
  - a. Comes at noon, to draw water from well of Jacob, rather than in cool of morning with rest of women
    - i. Rejected, ostracized by her community; 5 husbands, living with another
    - ii. Society, only men had power to divorce, so they get right to place blame on her
  - b. This morning she finds Jesus tired from his journey, rests at the well
  - c. Expectation Jewish man in Samaritan territory, he would ignore her both for being a Samaritan and a woman
    - i. To her surprise he speaks to her asking for water
4. Interesting dialogue goes on between them Jesus respects her and she is not afraid to ask questions
  - a. He gets into being able to give living water; she: where find that? deep cistern, you do not even have a bucket, are you claiming to be greater than our ancestor, Jacob who dug this well
  - b. this is exactly what Jesus wants her to understand; he is the messiah
  - c. Water I will give, will spring up eternally and whoever drinks will never thirst
    - i. Not sure what He is saying but this sounds attractive
    - ii. Give me some of this water, I won't have to come to this well again
  - d. again he works slow, call your husband; I have no husband
  - e. telling the truth, you have had five and man you are living with is not your husband
5. Woman sees Jesus as a prophet, seems to test Him further
  - a. Where is correct place to worship, where is God
  - b. Hour is coming where all will realize that place is not important
  - c. God is Spirit and truth; in spirit and truth that we worship
6. Notice the change in this woman formerly so fearful that she avoid townspeople so much to draw water at hottest part of day

- a. She becomes an evangelist: Leaves her water jar and convinces the town to come and see that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah
  - b. They witness to her that they have come to recognize Him as Messiah or Christ by his teaching
7. Questions raise for us; Where is God for us? Is He a friend with whom we can share our most intimate fears and worries? Do we even think of Him during the day, much less have a conversation
- a. It is very easy to get caught up in our busy days, trying to overcome challenges and setbacks
  - b. We think the whole burden is on us to deal with our problems
  - c. More we depend only on ourselves, the more dryness and emptiness the world will have for us
  - d. We are tempted to fill it with pleasures like food or possessions, we try to distract ourselves with mindless activities; begin to feel we do not have enough money for ourselves much less share with others
8. The gift of Lent is God's offer to us to slow down, decide what is really important in our lives
- a. He is inviting us to take a break from our usual routines
  - b. Are we becoming slaves to our routines, to our possessions
  - c. Jesus respected the Samaritan woman enough to talk with her and reveal Himself
    - i. But she had to be willing to stop and pay attention to Him as well
9. Fasting, Prayer and almsgiving are tools given to us inviting us to break free from our usual habits and routines
- a. Pushing us to be a little less comfortable with our life to ask ourselves are we really happy
10. Jesus offers Himself as living water, as food of life
- a. But to hear Him we have to pay attention to Him
  - b. He speaks to us in many ways: scriptures we read, the silence of our heart, emptiness when we feel hungry, the people we help with our gifts
11. As he did to the Samaritan woman, He respects us and wants to give us life
- a. He waits for us to respond, to try to understand and accept the gifts he is offering
  - b. In Him we can find water that truly refreshes for eternity