

Gospel Reflection

I like to consider myself an independent 26 year old woman. I have been paying my bills, college loans, car payment, etc. without the help of my parents for many years now. I buy my own groceries and cook my own dinner. I do not have any children and I am not yet married. From the sound of it, I am independent. This is what all the teens I work with want – to be independent so that nobody can tell them what to do, or how to live. Hmm... But is independence really what God calls us to?

How long can we survive without air? Food? Water? As independent as we try to make ourselves, we can only survive so long without these things! What does it take for us to remember how small we are? We all need air, food, and water and are dependent on God for these things. So really, I guess I'm not as independent as it may seem.

The Samaritan woman had been trying her whole life to fulfill herself. And what did she have to show for herself? A few ex-husbands and probably a lot of disappointment. The Samaritan woman *thought* she was going to the well to get water to fulfill her human needs. Jesus pointed out to her that she couldn't. Only God could. What she needed was forgiveness and salvation.

I am sick and tired of chasing after what I want. I want to chase after what I *need*.

I need forgiveness. I need salvation. I need Jesus.

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Utturn Teen Ministries Coordinator*

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 4:5 – 42

O S F M N I M V N Z F O D
B T B A O E D A J W O V N
T J M T S U T W R O O Y A
W O S S S I N E U R D H T
W I I J R I A T U S B R S
Y A U A R P R X A H A O R
H B M T S R I H T I L I E
A A P S W D L W C P N V D
S J E R U S A L E M W A N
X J O F U V E P D L N S U
C A N O R S J N M J L Q H
W A T E R Q T C N S Q K U
L Y Z V F C O D F R N P I

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

CHRIST	FOOD	JERUSALEM
MESSIAH	MOUNTAIN	REAP
SAMARITAN	SAVIOR	SOW
THIRST	UNDERSTAND	WATER
WELL	WOMAN	WORSHIP

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Third Sunday of Lent
2/24/08*

*John 4:5 – 42
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We then pause for a moment to listen with our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...

The Word of God: *John 4:5-42*

The Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman asked him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" – for Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go and call your husband and come back." The woman answered "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are

a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking to you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the work of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say 'In four months time the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and the other reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of the town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed for two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world." ***The Gospel of the Lord***

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- When you're really thirsty, what quenches your thirst the best?
- Do you really believe that you need God?
- What "wants" are you chasing after? What "needs" should you be chasing after?

Closing Prayer

Father,

You have taught us to overcome our sins by prayer, fasting and works of mercy. When we are discouraged by our weakness, give us confidence in your love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Third Sunday in Lent