

“Samaritan Woman”

In last week's Gospel, Jesus reveals his glory in the presence of three of His chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John. This week, Jesus reveals His identity to the woman at the well, which raised the woman to glory, for Jesus gave her what she did not have, friendship with God.

God desire our friendship and He is always in search of us so we can come to Him. So today in our Gospel, after a tiring journey by Jesus and His disciples, there was an encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman who came to Jacob's well to draw water during the hottest part of the day.

This woman was no ordinary woman, she was a broken hearted woman looking for somebody to love her and treat her as a child of God. A child created in God's image. Instead, Jesus let her know that He knew she had had five husbands and the man she has now is not even her husband.

Like many men and women in our society today, she was looking for that perfect relationship. She was in search of love. Instead, all she found were men who used her and left her broken hearted. She was probably a woman with broken self-image who felt worthless, ashamed and felt nobody could ever love her. She found it difficult to be around her town's people, so she avoided mixing with them by going to the well at noon when nobody else was supposed to be around.

On meeting Jesus, a Jew who asked her for water to drink, she rebuked Him for talking and asking her a Samaritan woman for water. You see, Jews and Samaritans would not talk to each other. However, she did not know that Jesus was thirsting for her to have faith in God. That was why Jesus started slowly revealing His identity. First by telling 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.”**

Jesus did not promise her ordinary water, He promised her the fountain of life known as the gift of the Holy Spirit. A gift only a Divine Person could promise. Jesus promised her that the Holy Spirit, the Streams of Living Water, would mend her broken heart and life would flow from her new heart. Jesus revealed to her who she was and that she could become a source of waters of life for God if she opens up her heart to Him and receive the offer of His love.

In continuing the dialogue, the woman mentioned that she knew the Messiah would be coming. Jesus then revealed Himself as the “Great I AM.” This is the name God gave to Moses in the burning bush in the Book of Exodus. Jesus did not reveal this to anyone else. Remember, it was the Father who revealed Jesus' identity to Peter. It is only to this lonely and broken hearted woman that He revealed who He is.

At this point, an unquenchable fire had been lit in her heart. She left her water jar behind and ran to the village so she would be the first person to tell the people about her new found Friend. Her Friend who told her everything she had done in the past, who told her He is the Messiah.

Just as Jesus promised, the waters of life started flowing from the Samaritan woman and she started to radiate that life to her own people. The people were amazed at the transformation that

had taken place in her. They followed her to see for themselves who could have brought this radiance into her life.

In this Lenten season, Jesus would like us to be like the Samaritan woman. He wants people to know us by our good fruit and thereby know the Great I AM. He wants us to have the same type of zeal to go out and introduce Him to other people so they would know the Father sent Him as the one who has come to give us new life. He wants to touch and nourish every heart and set the world on fire through us.

As we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, may our hearts be set on fire for His love so we can spread His Good News all over the world!