

**Deacon Tony's March 12, 2023 Homily**  
**For**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well**

We should truly relate to the readings today concerning water. My water bill doubled this month and God is the only one I can turn to.

When the Israelites complained to Moses about the lack of water, Moses turned to God who solved their problem. But their complaint was so disrespectful, and which show their lack of trust in the God who was with them at every turn. So much so that the church recites Psalm 95, every day in their daily morning prayers, to remind us of the selfishness of God's people at Massah and Meribah.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your fathers put me to the test;

when they tried me, though they saw my work.

In our Gospel reading Jesus confronts a Samaritan woman, as he sits by Jacob's well, for water to quench His thirst. Now Jesus could see the woman's situation in the facts that she was there (alone) at the hottest time of the day, tired and obviously trying to avoid talking to anyone. But Jesus was scolded by the woman when He asked her for a cup of water, for breaking the decorum set by the rules of His own people. Jesus knew that this woman was very troubled and how **it didn't need to be that way**. He couldn't resist telling her about the LIVING WATER that quenches thirst forever. He brags about His water, which when taken by a person who will never thirst again.

Jesus told her to get her husband and return to talk. In her honesty she admitted that she had no husband to which Jesus replied that what she said was true because she had had 5 husbands and the man that was living with was not her husband. The woman testifies to Jesus that she is waiting for the coming of the Messiah, He proclaims that He is that Messiah.

This is the first time that Jesus identified himself as the Messiah. If ever we thought that Jesus discriminated, we just need to see that when it comes to serving the Father, that Samaritans were no different in the Father's eyes.

On hearing Our Lord's proclamation, she immediately left her water jar and went into the town to share this GOOD NEWS. Many people followed Jesus and invited Him to stay awhile, and He stayed for two more days. And then the beauty of the story is that they were able to believe on their confrontation with Jesus. They had a faith based on their personal gift of God's grace.

May we remember that we too were immersed in this living water, which channeled God's sanctifying grace into our souls that we might never thirst for anything except whatever will get us to heaven.