**Ecumenical Lenten Bible Sharing**

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Holliston

**Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42**

*John wrote his Gospel account “so that [we] may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that by believing, [we] may have life in his name.” John doesn’t explicitly tell this to the reader until the end of the book (John 20:31)*

1. The image of water throughout the scriptures are many. Here in John, there is a link to Genesis and to Jesus. What do you think that may be?

Look here for the rift between Jews and Samaritans <https://bit.ly/3ZSQSzJ.>

1. Jesus refers to himself as “living water.” What does that mean to you and in particular how you attempt to live out your faith in Christ?
2. How would you characterize this powerful biblical metaphor of being “thirsty.” What are the “thirsts of your life that Jesus satisfies? Where are the “wells” where you encounter the Divine?
3. What is a favorite prayer or experience that expresses the wishes of this woman, “give me this water, so I may not be thirsty?”

Jesus came to a 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 the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to 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 then 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, so that I may not be thirsty

or have to keep coming here to draw water.

“I can see that you are a prophet.

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;

but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

1. It appears Jesus affirming the superiority of Palestinian Jews over Samaritans. What do you do with this passage?
2. What is Jesus referring to when he says, Jew and Samaritan, indeed all people, will worship in spirit and truth and these will be the common ground of all. What does “spirit and truth” mean to you?
3. Given the cultural rift between Samaritans and Jews, what do you make of Samaritans inviting Jesus to stay with them? What does it mean?
4. This verse underlines the purpose of John’s gospel. What does the first part of this verse mean to you?

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 worshipers 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 who is speaking with you.”*

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him.

When the Samaritans came to him,

they invited him to stay with them;

and he stayed there 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.”***