

## Weekly Theme



W/C 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**"We are all the same"**

### John 4: 5-42

*In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar, which is near the field Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside the well. It was about twelve o'clock noon. When a Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water, Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." (This happened while Jesus' followers were in town buying some food.)*

*The woman said, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink, since you are a Jewish man and I am a Samaritan woman." (Jewish people are not friends with Samaritans.)*

*Jesus said, "If you only knew the free gift of God and who it is that is asking you for water, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*

*The woman said, "Sir, where will you get this living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. Are you greater than Jacob, our father, who gave us this well and drank from it himself along with his sons and flocks?"*

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life."*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty again and will not have to come back here to get more water."*

*Jesus told her, "Go get your husband and come back here."*

*The woman answered, "I have no husband."*

*Jesus said to her, "You are right to say you have no husband. Really you have had five husbands, and the man you live with now is not your husband. You told the truth."*

*The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship."*

*Jesus said, "Believe me, woman. The time is coming when neither in Jerusalem nor on this mountain will you actually worship the Father. You Samaritans worship something you don't understand. We understand what we worship, because salvation comes from the Jews. The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

*The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming." (Messiah is the One called Christ.) "When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us."*

*Then Jesus said, "I am he—I, the one talking to you."*

*Just then his followers came back from town and were surprised to see him talking with a woman. But none of them asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"*

*Then the woman left her water jar and went back to town. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Do you think he might be the Christ?" So the people left the town and went to see Jesus.*

*Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said: "He told me everything I ever did." When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them, so he stayed there two more days. And many more believed because of the things he said.*

*They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of what you said, but now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."*

*In the time of Jesus women were treated very badly, they were second class citizens in their communities. They were treated as mere belongings. Jesus was revolutionary in the way he treated women, he gave them respect and numbered them among his closest friends. It was the women who stayed with Jesus on his journey to the cross. And it was women who first were given the news of the resurrection of Jesus.*

*Today in some countries women are still treated as inferior to men.*

*In our country we have laws that make it illegal to discriminate between men and woman. But there are still many people today who are discriminated against because of where they have come from or because of their beliefs or the colour of their skin.*

*As followers of Jesus we believe that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. We have to stand up against discrimination of any sort. That is what Jesus would do.*

**Father of all goodness, help us to stand up for those in our world who suffer discrimination.**  
**May we use this time of Lent to improve the lives of others.**  
**Amen.**