

Third Sunday of Lent

(This gospel reading for year A may be used in place of those for years B and C.)

Year A (B,C)/Lectionary no. 28

John 4:5-42

Narrator: Jesus had to pass through Samaria, and his journey brought him to a Samaritan town named Shechem near the plot of land which Jacob had given to his son Joseph. This was the site of Jacob's well. The hour was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her,

Jesus: "Give me a drink."

Narrator: (His disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.) The Samaritan woman said to him,

Woman: "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?"

Narrator: (Recall that Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.)

Jesus: "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water."

Woman: "Sir, you do not have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this flowing water? Surely you do not pretend to be greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with his sons and his flocks?"

Jesus: “Everyone who drinks this water
will be thirsty again.
But whoever drinks the water I give
will never be thirsty;
no, the water I give
shall become the fountain within,
leaping up to provide eternal life.”

Woman: “Give me this water, sir, so that I shall not grow thirsty
and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus: “Go, call your husband, and then come
back here.”

Woman: “I have no husband,” [replied the woman.]

Jesus: “You are right in saying you have no husband!
The fact is, you have had five, and the man
you are living with now is not your husband. What you
said is true.”

Woman: “Sir, I can see you are a
prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but
you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where ~~men~~ people
ought to worship God.”

Jesus: “Believe me, woman,
an hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain
nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand,
while we understand what we worship;
after all, salvation is from the Jews.
Yet an hour is coming, and is already here,
when authentic worshipers
will worship the Father in Spirit and truth.
Indeed, it is just such worshipers

the Father seeks.
God is Spirit,
and those who worship him
must worship him in Spirit and truth.”

Woman: “I know there is a Messiah coming.”

Narrator: (This term means Anointed.)

Woman: “When he comes, he will tell us everything.”

Jesus: “I who speak to you am he.”

Narrator: His disciples, returning at this point, were surprised that Jesus was speaking with a woman. No one put a question, however, such as “What do you want of him?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people:

Woman: “Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did! Could this not be the Messiah?”

Narrator: At that they set out from town to meet him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he told them:

Jesus: “I have food to eat
of which you do not know.”

Narrator: At this the disciples said to one another, “Do you suppose that someone has brought him something to eat?” Jesus explained to them:

Jesus: “Doing the will of ^{the one} ~~him~~ who sent me
and bringing his work to completion
is my food.
Do you not have a saying:
‘Four months more

and it will be harvest!?”
Listen to what I say:
Open your eyes and see!
The fields are shining for harvest!
The reaper already collects his wages
and gathers a yield for eternal life,
that sower and reaper may rejoice together.
Here we have the saying verified:
‘One ~~man~~ sows; another reaps.’
I sent you to reap
what you had not worked for.
Others have done the labor,
and you have come into their gain.”

Narrator: Many Samaritans from that town believed in him on the strength of the woman’s word of testimony: “He told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So he stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. As they told the woman: “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

... the gospel of the Lord.