

Bulletin: Lent 03 A 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Parish App: Sunday, May 7, 2017 will be download Sunday. Bring your cell phones to mass and we will download our Holy Rosary Parish App.

Holy Week Schedule: Our schedule is on our website: www.holyrosaryalaska.org

Priest Convocation: March 13-17, Anchorage. All the priests from the dioceses of Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks will be in Anchorage next week for prayer, learning, training, and fellowship.

HOMILY

INTRODUCTION

Here are some very important spiritual lessons we learned from Jesus' encounter with the women at the well. These lessons are about bringing people into our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Cultivated a Friendship.

He went out of His way geographically.

He went out of His way socially.

Jesus compared physical thirst with spiritual thirst to start conversation and cultivate friendship

Application for Us: Be intentional about developing friendships, ministering to them in any way we can, and sharing with them what Jesus means to us and how they can also have a relationship with Him.

2. Jesus Created Interest first with a felt need, then spiritual need.

He started first with asking about her physical thirst, she was thirsty. Jesus did not just start talking about spiritual matters out of the clear blue sky. She came to draw water, so Jesus used that as the starting point of the conversation.

Application for Us: Like Jesus, we can often create an interest in the gospel by beginning with felt needs, not the spiritual needs. Jesus associated physical thirst with spiritual thirst, which harbored friendship and interest.

3. Jesus Comprehended Her Situation (St. John 4:16-19)

Jesus compassionately confronted her with the sad history of her life. Five times she had sought happiness only to end up in disappointment and despair. Jesus did not approve of her lifestyle, but he did not condemn her. Jesus found something positive to say about her.

Application for Us: We can be in a better positive witness by trying not to condemn people. Avoid judgment and condemnation as we share the good news of Jesus with others.

4. Jesus Concentrated on love and relationship, not religion

Jesus avoided discussing religion. He focused on relationship. The Samaritan woman asked in what religious tradition God should be worshipped. Jesus responded that relationship is more important than tradition: "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Application for Us: When bringing people to the faith we need to focus on relationship and love, not religion.

5. Jesus Communicated Patiently

At first the Samaritan woman did not fully understand what Jesus was not talking about physical thirst but spiritual thirst. Jesus was patient with her.

Application for Us: We must communicate patiently until newcomers to our faith are able to understand what the Bible teaches about love and forgiveness.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when bringing people to our Catholic Christian faith, Jesus teaches us (1) cultivate friendships, (2) create interest with felt then spiritual need, (3)

comprehend the situation, (4) focus on love and relationship, not religion, and (4) communicate patiently (431 Words).

READINGS

Third Sunday of Lent

Lectionary: 28

Reading 1 **EX 17:3-7**

In those days, in their thirst for water,
the people grumbled against Moses,
saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?
Was it just to have us die here of thirst
with our children and our livestock?"
So Moses cried out to the LORD,
"What shall I do with this people?
a little more and they will stone me!"
The LORD answered Moses,
"Go over there in front of the people,
along with some of the elders of Israel,
holding in your hand, as you go,
the staff with which you struck the river.
I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb.
Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it
for the people to drink."
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
The place was called Massah and Meribah,
because the Israelites quarreled there
and tested the LORD, saying,
"Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

Responsorial Psalm PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. (8) **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading 2 ROM 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom we have gained access by faith

to this grace in which we stand,

and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,

though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Verse Before The Gospel CF. JN 4:42, 15

Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;

give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Gospel JN 4:5-42

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."

Jesus said to her,

"Go call your husband and come back."

The woman answered and said to him,

"I do not have a husband."

Jesus answered her,

"You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.'

For you have had five husbands,

and the one you have now is not your husband.

What you have said is true."

The woman said to him,

"Sir, 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."

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 speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned,

and were amazed that he was talking with a woman,

but still no one said, "What are you looking for?"

or "Why are you talking with her?"

The woman left her water jar

and went into the town and said to the people,

"Come see a man who told me everything I have done.

Could he possibly be the Christ?"
They went out of the town and came to him.
Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat."
But he said to them,
"I have food to eat of which you do not know."
So the disciples said to one another,
"Could someone have brought him something to eat?"
Jesus said to them,
"My food is to do the will of the one who sent me
and to finish his work.
Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'?
I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest.
The reaper is already receiving payment
and gathering crops for eternal life,
so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together.
For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.'
I sent you to reap what you have not worked for;
others have done the work,
and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him
because of the word of the woman who testified,
"He told me everything I have done."
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."

Or JN 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42

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."

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."

INTERCESSIONS

Introduction

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom; God's weakness is stronger than human strength. With great expectation, we entrust our needs to the Lord.

Intercessions

For the Church of God: that by its words, worship, and actions it may be seen as the Body of Christ and the temple of God's Holy Spirit, we pray to the lord.

For the rulers of nations, for religious leaders, for all those with power: that they will strive to serve the people entrusted to their care, and always seek the common good, we pray to the Lord.

For those who cannot find God, or who feel that they are beyond God's forgiveness: that they will be able to entrust themselves to the gentle mercy of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have died (especially.....), that the Lord will welcome them into the joy of His presence in the heavenly Jerusalem, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....we pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

Loving God, as we make these prayers to you, we ask you to continue your saving work among us, so that all people may know the glorious freedom of the children of God, through Christ our Lord.