

# LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

## 7 MARCH 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 19/Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), March 7, 2021

**John 4:5-42** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. **7** When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." **11** "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" **13** Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." **16** He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." **17** "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." **19** "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." **21** Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." **25** The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." **26** Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." **27** Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" **28** Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29** "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" **30** They came out of the town and made their way toward him. **31** Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." **32** But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." **33** Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" **34** "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. **35** Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. **36** Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. **37** Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. **38** I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." **39** Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers. **42** They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that his man really is the Savior of the world."

**Meditation:** During Lent, we seek to tell more truths about ourselves and to discover truths revealed about the God we encounter at the well of our lives. We seek to take a hard look at what separates us from being who we are fully created to be. We seek to know our place in God's story. We seek to know the truth of our lives. I believe the reason we tell the woman at the well story so often is because we want the freedom she possesses to tell the truth about who we are and who our God is. To say that our worth is dependent upon the truth revealed by Jesus at the well: "I am the Messiah. I am your God and you are my people."

Our truth today lies in God who will journey through Samaria to do a little truth-telling about who each of us is and who our God is. Can we, during this Lent, tell the God-given truths about our God and about ourselves? Maybe it begins like this ... I am a child of God, beloved, holy, etc.

**Prayer:** *Gracious God, you came to reveal yourself to us. May we tell the truth about who we are and who you are. For you are our God and we are your people. Amen.*

-excerpt from The Reverend Lisa Juice (MDiv'11), Associate for Admissions.

**Lent: Reflection, repentance, and renewal.** Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary