

Reflection on John 4: 5-42

There's all sorts of things going on here in today's Gospel reading and they are about new life, new life with all its vitality, freedom and peace. And the Gospel shows that this life, this kind of life is available and it's not exclusive to one section of the community or even to one race of people, its available to everyone and anyone.

The Samaritan woman is drawn to question Jesus about the issues which worry her and make her angry until she is gradually led to see that all these wranglings are submerged in the greater significance of God's eventual purpose for his creation.

In essence pure worship begins in the heart and its effect on lives is shown personally in the life of Jesus. Jesus is our role model the basis for the pattern of our lives. The essential truth of Christianity can be stated in simple terms, yet so often people prefer the complications of religion, is it because the simplicity of faith is too disturbing ?

Fr Terry



Coronavirus. Please follow Government advice about regular hand washing and coughing/ sneezing. Intinction (dipping) is not recommended. We are now offering a sign of peace without touching, and communion in one kind (bread) only. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes>

NEXT SUNDAY 22nd March 2020

SERVICES 8am Said Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
4pm Evensong

READINGS

OT: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13
NT: Ephesians 5: 8-14
GOSPEL: John 9: 1-41



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 15th March 2020

Third Sunday of Lent

Today

8am Said Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
4pm Informal Eucharist

Tuesday 17th March

7.30pm House Group at 6 Painter's Court

Wednesday 18th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)
6pm Outreach Meeting
7pm Lent Course at The Manse, 21
Dunsford Road

Thursday 19th March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots with Breast-feeding support

Friday 20th March

12noon Stations of the Cross & Mass
followed by soup lunch & discussion



Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has

been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4: 5-42

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that 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 have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never 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 him, 'I have no hus-

band.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no 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 see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these 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 Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ADVANCE NOTICE

Gift of Years: Joy 2020 Festival. You are invited to a special event exploring how to make the most of life over 60. Hosted by the Bishop of Exeter, featuring talks and practical advice. **Friday 20th March 2—4.30pm** St Boniface Centre, Crediton. EX17 2AH