



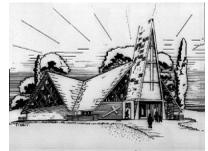
Free Evangelical Lutheran  
Synod in South Africa

## Sermon for Sunday Oculi 2017

(Proper Lent 3A)

*If you know the gift and Jesus, then you  
will ask Him and He will give it to you!*

St. John's Lutheran Parish



Shelly Beach



• [The Word of God for this Sermon is written in John 4, 5-26:](#)

• ESV <sup>5</sup> So He (Jesus) came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

• <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

• <sup>7</sup> There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said

to her, "Give me a drink."

• <sup>8</sup> (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

• <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

• <sup>10</sup> 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."

• <sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

• <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

• <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

• <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

• <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

• <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

• <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

• <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

• <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

• <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

• <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

• <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

• <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

- <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
  - <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."
  - <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."
  - <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"
  - <sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,
  - <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"
  - <sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to Him.
- Let us pray: *Come Holy Spirit, open our ears and our hearts so that we will hear Jesus and receive His gifts. Amen.*

### • Dear Beloved of the Father!

- What a brilliant story Christ has given us to tell of His first mission expedition to Samaria! Although this story happened long ago we know that Christ hasn't changed and that people haven't changed or evolved either that much, so that we cannot find ourselves in them, as you will see.
- Jesus was baptised with water and the Spirit by John as the Lamb who takes away the sins of the WORLD! After Jesus' Baptism He goes to Galilee to call His disciples. He attends a wedding where strangely enough the bride is never mentioned in the story and He turns water into the best wine. After the wedding His disciples go with Him, they abide with Him. Then we hear how Jesus enters the temple in Jerusalem and cleanses the temple of all sacrificial animals and all those who make money out of the sacrificial system. With this act Jesus made clear that the temple in Jerusalem will be destroyed, but He will raise it up in three days. He was speaking of the temple of His body.
- Then Nicodemus, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin comes by night and visits Him. Jesus immediately tells him, that he needs to be born from above, by water and the Spirit, else He will neither enter nor see the kingdom of God. Then we hear what death Jesus must die. He must be lifted up. In this way God loved the world!
- Then Jesus, on His way to Galilee comes through Sychar in Samaria, sits on/over the well of Jacob, if one takes the original text very literally. He is thirsty. He has no bucket to draw water with. But here comes a woman, a Samaritan woman, probably a prostitute, because of the five husbands she had, but none were her actual husbands. She comes with issues against the Jews- Jewish men won't speak to her, because to them she is unclean.
- This has to do with history. The Assyrians captured the Northern parts of Israel, deported the Israelite high brass, and let five pagan nations occupy the territory. What

happened? The Israelites soon intermarried with the pagans and those were later called the Samaritans. Such a woman was approaching Jesus at the well.

• Was she expecting anything? No. She only wanted to fetch some water from the well which Jacob had given them. Now she runs into Jesus. We know, she actually runs into God! She has an encounter with the living God. She only sees a Jewish man. She doesn't say anything. He does, to her surprise! He asks her to give Him to drink! So at this stage Jesus, the Son of God, asked her to serve Him.

• She does not give Jesus to drink, because of the issues she has, because of history. But she has this question: what do you have to do with me? Why your interest in me? Why do you engage me and ask something of me? In other words who are you- these are the questions hanging in the air.

• The next Word Jesus is going to say will take this conversation into a completely spiritual realm. That is in the realm of eternity, of eternal life. So much so, that in the end neither Jesus nor the woman will have drunk of the physical water!

• So, how does Jesus lift the conversation? In the most beautiful word [10]: *"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."*

• If only she knew the gift of God- the gift of God is the living water, is the forgiveness of sins flowing from the pierced side of Jesus' body which results in the one receiving this gift to life forever in the new temple of God, the Body of Christ. In Baptism we, the Church, are united with Himself, which is the marriage feast where water is turned into wine. Forgiveness of sins is turned into a marriage feast of eternal life! "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."* You know Him. You know who says to you, serve me, that is 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself'. It is Jesus the Son of God!

• And now comes the major twist in the story. In all religions it works in this way, that if a god says, serve me, give me a drink, you obey and do it. That is how you serve a god, that is how you worship that god, by giving him or her what he or she asks for. The idol or god is the master, its followers have to sacrifice things to give to him or her.

• Here Jesus turns "religion" on its head and with it the right way to worship the true God! Those who know Jesus, the Son of God, when He requires the Law from them don't try and serve Him, but those who know Him ask Him to give to them the gift of

God, namely living water! Those who know Jesus know that He is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world, including their own.

- The right worship of Jesus is thus to know Him and to when He pronounces the Law of God to ask Him for His water of Life! And He gives it to them. This makes them to be the right worshippers, who worship God in spirit and in truth. That is while being in the Spirit and in the Truth. For God is Spirit and it is necessary to fall down or to worship God in spirit and in truth. This gives the new place of God's worship. Its never been the temple in Samaria but its neither the temple of Jerusalem any-more. The new place of worship is in the truth, that is in God's new temple, the Body of Christ, and its in the Spirit, in the domain where the spirit reigns, where all those are who have received the spirit of God through Baptism.
- All those who know the Truth, namely that Jesus is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. There in this temple of Christ God wants to be worshipped in the special New Testament Way, namely that we ask Him for His gift, as we hear His Law preached to us, and that we go and receive His gift ongoing.
- And then there is another surprise for us: Don't we also sometimes come to the Divine Service like that woman to the well- we want physical help, we pray for rain and so on- and we may do so as much as we want- but when we leave the Divine Service we have forgotten about our physical needs. As we meet the real Jesus He focusses us on the eternal things, living water.
- On the other hand that is the problem with mission-work as such, Jesus came to hand out living water, which makes those who receive it into eternal forgiving beings, but initially people are only interested in their physical well-being. That might be off-putting.
- Jesus reveals something profound, namely, that many people long for the living water without knowing what it is they are chasing after. And therefore He sends us to have conversations with people and should the conversation turn into the deeper spiritual level, especially where people are suffering, that we remember, that we have this wonderful gift to give, that we can say: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. You may ask Him to give you the gift. He has given it to the Samaritans, to me and He wants to give to you also.
- Thank you, dearest Jesus! **Amen.**
- *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.** [Phil 4,7].*