

Homily ~ Lent III (A) > March 8, 2026.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on thirst - not just physical thirst, but the deep spiritual thirst that every human heart carries. From the desert of the Israelites to the well in Samaria, God reveals Himself as the One who alone can satisfy that thirst.

In the first reading, during the journey of Israel through the desert, the people complain because they have no water. Yet God responds with mercy. Water flows from the rock at Horeb. Even when the people are ungrateful and doubtful, God provides what they need. The rock becomes a sign that God cares for His people and sustains their life.

In the Gospel from Gospel of John, we encounter Jesus at another place of thirst - the well of Jacob. There He meets a Samaritan woman; someone rejected by society and separated from the Jewish people. Yet Jesus begins a conversation with her and asks for a drink. Soon the conversation moves deeper: He tells her that He can give living water - water that becomes a spring within a person, leading to eternal life.

What is this living water? It is the life of God Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts. Through Baptism, we have already received this living water. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, hear the Word of God, and receive the Sacraments, that living water flows again within us.

But the Gospel also reveals something important about the human heart. The Samaritan woman had been searching for fulfillment in many places. Jesus gently points out that she had five husbands and the one she had now was not her husband. He does not say this to shame her, but to help her recognize her deeper thirst - the thirst for love, truth, and healing that only God can satisfy.

In many ways, we are like that woman. We often try to quench our thirst with things that cannot truly satisfy us - comfort, possessions, habits, distractions, or unhealthy attachments. During this Lenten season, Jesus invites us to come back to the well and drink from the living water.

First, we must allow Jesus into our personal lives. Like the woman at the well, we may have parts of our lives we prefer to hide. Yet Jesus does not come to condemn us; He comes to heal us and free us.

Second, we are called to be witnesses, just as the Samaritan woman became. After encountering Jesus, she left her water jar and ran to tell the people of her town about Him. When we truly experience Christ, we cannot keep Him to ourselves.

Finally, during Lent we are invited to leave behind our "five husbands" - the unhealthy attachments, sinful habits, and addictions that keep us away from God. Lent is the time to let those things go and return to the source of living water.

Dear Ones, today Jesus says to each one of us what He said to the woman: "*If you knew the gift of God...*" May we come to Him with our thirst, drink deeply from His grace, and allow the living water of the Holy Spirit to renew our lives.