

In the beverage isle of the grocery, it's unbelievable that there're thousands of drinks to choose from & there's always something new to try. In the Rime of the Ancient Mariner, "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink". Water all around him, but it only increased his thirst. For what do we thirst? Over a lifetime we experience many thirsts. Water, water everywhere, and not a drop that satisfies.

At the time of Jesus, his homeland Palestine was dividend into three regions—North was Galilee the home of Nazareth & the Sea of Galilee; Judea in south where Jerusalem & Bethlehem are located. Samaria was in the middle. The Jews despised the Samaritans because they were neither Jews or Gentiles, but considered half-breeds, Jew intermarried to Gentiles. Jesus, on his way to Galilee comes to a fork in the road where there stands to this day, a **well** known as Jacob's well—many memories of Jacob & Joseph returned from Egypt & buried there. Disciples go to town in search of food. Here in this desolate area, Jesus has an encounter with a Samaritan woman. To this anonymous woman married 5 times with a failed life, Jesus give a profound discourse in Scripture on the subject of **Worship & Spirit of God**. Jesus says, "Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again." "But everyone who drinks the water I shall give will never thirst."

What is Jesus is saying to us about our wants, needs, & thirsts? Is there a tendency toward striving for more & more to satisfy us, one more this or that, one more style of car, or home entertainment system. I venture to say that no matter how many choices we have, we won't be satisfied. Deep down we know this, don't we? As people of faith, we know that only God can truly satisfy us & that **things** of this world will never be enough, nor will they last. They make us happy for a short time. Only God can truly quench our thirst.

You see, there are so many wonderful gifts the Lord wants to share—his love, mercy, forgiveness, his healing grace. Are we ready to receive them? They are there. Or are we not capable of hearing like the woman at the well? Jesus is ready to forgive us & accept each one of us like the Samaritan woman. She was not fulfilled because she made the wrong choices & fulfillment is found only in the Lord. Where do we look for fulfillment, for happiness, for satisfaction, in material things, power, prestige?

I believe the Lord wants nothing more than to fill us with all good things, to fill our **wells** with His life-giving water. To replace anger, bitterness, resentment, grudges, sin with His love. Lent is the perfect time to clean our wells & receive the Lord. We can:

- \*lower the bucket of **humility** & remove our self-centeredness.
- \*put in the bucket of **forgiveness** & remove the grudges we hold against others.
- \*lower the bucket of **kindness** & remove gossip & judging others.
- \*put in the bucket of **generosity** & remove the tendency to cling to what we have.
- \*lower the bucket of **prayer** & remove our unwillingness to change.

As we continue our Lenten Journey, let us pray to know our brokenness, to face our sinfulness, and to realize our need for God's love & mercy. My brothers & sisters, Jesus is ready to forgive & accept each one of us like the woman at the well. Jesus says, "I am the fulfillment. I am the living water. I can quench your thirst."