

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
March 4, 2018
Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 17:3-7 + Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 + John 4:5-42
Year A Readings (RCIA)



Reflection by: Elise Redmerski, OP

Today's gospel centers on a woman, Jesus and a well. The well was a meeting place for people, for gossip and, of course, water. However, the Samaritan woman in today's gospel was alone. Alone, because Samaritans were not welcomed by the Jews and she was an outcast, a sinner who was married five times. These were strikes against her. Yet, it is at this well where Jesus stopped to talk to her. She was stunned that a man, a Jew, would not only talk to a woman, much less a Samaritan, and asked her for a drink.

Jesus knew all about her and her many 'sins' and yet he stopped to talk with her. That is where she met a kind, loving, respectful, non-judgmental person who offered her compassion and life-giving water. Her life changed. He took this woman as she was and gently called her to more. She met her Lord.

It is no wonder that during Lent the church uses this reading when we have elect for the RCIA. At what well did Berth, our RCIA person, meet Jesus? What did Jesus reveal to her about himself and about herself that caused her to 'convert' from Muslim to Christianity? With whom and where did Berth first encounter a wellspring that offered her life-giving water for her journey? Where is the well and who are the people that you and I continue to meet who help quench our thirst when we are parched?

Not only does this gospel offer a lesson for personal conversion but it also offers a lesson for today's world that sees such conflict among different cultures and religions...a world where transparency, dialogue and respect do not exist.

As I journey this Lent my prayer mantra is a song by John L. Bell:

Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O Take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Image Source: Jackson, Wayne. "Jesus and the Samaritan Woman." ChristianCourier.com. Access date: March 1, 2018. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/282-jesus-and-the-samaritan-woman>