**Five Minute Jesus**

**Using the Gospel for Prayer** – **Third Sunday in Lent** - March 15, 2020

*It’s simple. 1. Read the Gospel for the following Sunday slowly, reflecting on the story it tells. 2. Reflect on the questions assigned for each day. 3. Make some resolution about how what you read can be lived that day. 4. Then thank God for speaking to you through this reflection.*

**The Gospel according to John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a,40-42 \***

**Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.**

**Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans. — Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who 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 do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”**

**I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people 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 the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”**

*\*Note: this is the shorter version of the Gospel; you might hear the longer one read at mass.*

**Sunday**

Was there something in this reading that spoke to me? Comforted me? Challenged me? What was it? Why did it have this effect on me?

**Monday**

The Gospel says that Jesus was in Samaria. He sat down at a well about noon. He chatted up a woman. He asked her to give him a drink. And offered her one – living water. It may not seem so to us, but everything Jesus does would be scandalous in his day. How do I feel about Jesus acting so scandalously? And more importantly, why did he? What power is there in scandal?

**Tuesday**

Jesus and the woman get into a debate about religion. Who is right – her people or Jesus’ people? How did Jesus handle that debate? What can I learn from his answer? Nowadays we try to avoid any discussion of religion, why? Why am I afraid to share my faith with others?

**Wednesday**

Jesus insists that all true worshipers worship “in spirit and truth”. He says this to counter the old idea that God expects people to worship **only** on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, or **only** on Mount Gerazim for the Samarians. Do Jesus’ words challenge this woman’s understanding of her faith? Do they challenge mine? If so, how?

**Thursday**

The words Aramaic word *Messiah* and the Greek word *Christ* mean the same thing: Anointed One. It refers to the ancient custom of choosing a priest or prophet or king by pouring oil on their head: ***anointing*** them. Jesus calls himself the Christ – God’s Chosen One. We call ourselves **Christians** – Literally, “little Christs”. This means we are chosen ones as well. How do I understand being chosen by God? When did that happen for me? How do I live that out? If not why not?

**Friday**

The end of the Gospel states that many of the Samaritans came to believe in him. Why? Did it have something to do with that living water? With the way Jesus handled their religious differences? With the way Jesus acted so scandalously yet in that revealed himself to be God’s Chosen One? What did they hear that was so compelling? And is it compelling for me? Does Jesus’ scandalous behavior that day challenge me? And if so how?