

This Samaritan, ex-bride of 5 men, now living adulterously. She draws water the 6th hour, the heat of the day, to avoid contact with other women, others out on the streets. She's an outcast. Ashamed. She later will set aside her personal shame, awkwardness to contact others, tells others of the Christ.

But at the well, she has an amazing question to Jesus, **are you greater than Jacob?** Yes, but what does Jacob have to do with it?

Well, it's a love story. All of Scripture, about the Christ, incredible how OT stories are repeated in fullness in the New. It's a love story. Go back to Abraham, who God's covenant is made, His chosen people come. Abraham's servant goes to find Abraham's son Isaac a bride, God even tells how He will provide one. After several days of traveling, the servant came to a well outside a little town. It was evening, time women come to draw water. Abraham's servant approached a young woman. His request like the one we've heard this morning. **Can I have a drink?** The woman said, **drink my lord.**

And with that, Abraham's servant found a bride for Isaac. Her name Rebecca. Isaac and Rebecca had a son, Jacob. Oh, funny, you know what Jacob means, how he's named, Jacob means heel, for he had grasp the heel of his twin brother's foot when he came out of the womb. Yes, this Jacob, who steals the birthright, deceptively stole the blessing. And because it, he's running for his life away from his brother; he comes to a well, laid eyes on the woman who'd be his bride. Beautiful Rachel. He's in love. So smitten, he agrees to work for her father 7 yrs. in exchange for her hand in marriage. After those years, he gets some of his own deceptive medicine when his father-in-law gives him the other, unattractive sister, Leah instead. Jacob works another 7 yrs for his Rachel. And Jacob then becomes the father of the 12 sons whose names would grace the 12 tribes of Israel, God's chosen people.

Now today we meet another servant. He too is looking for a bride, comes to this well that Jacob had dug (still there today). Along comes a Samaritan woman, an outcast among outcast people. But with Him, nationality and race don't matter. This man is looking for a bride of every race, nationality, background. **Give me a drink,** He asks.

So yes, Samaritan women! **One greater than Jacob is here!** For here before you is our Jacob has come not to take, but to give back to us, the blessing and birthright deceptively taken from us by satan. He has come not to give us mere earthly blessings that last for a time, but spiritual blessings that last for eternity. And for His bride He worked not only 7 or 14 yrs –He worked to death, to the cross to win her. And this work for what bride? A lovely Rachel? No, but for sinners of you and me and Samaritan women, so ugly, so wretched by sin.

For us who have committed spiritual adultery far more times than we can admit or count. Like when we don't trust, fear God will not take care of us. And how much else? How filthy, ugly we are by sin, inside and out?

For the heel of this greater Jacob is stricken, just as foretold, promised to

Adam and Eve in the garden, Satan will strike His heel, the Christ will crush the head of the serpent. For you, God's chosen people, in His new covenant He pours out, He provides for you, makes you His holy bride, no longer an outcast but dear family. For as this event was about the sixth hour, those words are heard again at the cross, just as in the story, John is pointing you to: Jesus hanging on a cross, with cracked lips, parched throat, said **I thirst!** It is for her He thirsts. It is for you He thirsts. He thirsts for His bride, with living waters from His pierced side.

Yes, our Jacob is here for His bride, giving you His very life in the marriage feast at this altar. Who says: I know your past. I know who you are. I know your secrets, your innermost thoughts. How unfaithful you have been. I know your fears, your failures. I know your sin. That's why I'm here. I come to take you as My bride. My Church. No coincidence, Jesus was there at Jacob's well that day. No coincidence He is here this day, to take care of his bride.

As the Samaritan women heard that day, **if you knew the gift of God who it is saying to you.** Yes, **if you knew the gift of God,** then so much of what you worry about or think is really important in this life -loses all value. **If you knew the gift of God, who it is saying to you.** Oh how you would embrace the living water of your baptism, crave the Holy Supper in your mouth and His liturgy on your lips.

If you knew the gift of God who it is saying to you. I hope you know toilet paper, bottled water aren't cures for the virus. Normal life will return, while things may get worse, it is not the plague and much, much less harmful than what every generation before you had to deal with. Yet, especially at times as this, God's grace is poured out to draw you closer to Him. **If you knew the gift of God! Who it is saying to you.** Realize, you have nothing to ever fear. You can even sing in the face of death, for you cannot die. Your Lord holds you, your name engraved on His nail-scarred hands.

If you knew the gift of God! You do not fear the unknown or life's uncertainty, nothing to be afraid of. **If you knew the gift of God, who it is saying to you,** then these days will not only draw you closer to Him, but give you the strength, the courage, the trust to know -you are safe, nothing can harm you. Your thirst quenched in these Sacraments that flow from His cross, His life in you **wells up in you to eternal life.** As the Psalmist wrote, **the Lord is my life and my salvation, what shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of what shall I be afraid?** For He knows what it means to thirst. What a love story, He comes to you, to give eternal drink and food to His beloved bride, and nothing, nothing can truly harm His own.