

The Third Sunday in Lent

“Come and See!

John 4:28-30

March 8, 2026

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for the Third Sunday in Lent is from our  
Gospel reading, John 4.

**“28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”**

So far our text:

The woman left her waterpot for her thirst had been quenched...quenched with the water of life. The woman left her waterpot because it would have slowed her down in her new mission to tell the people in her city what they had to see with their own eyes. With a voice strong enough to be heard by more than one man, she proclaimed the exquisite good news to all who would hear her – she had seen, she had heard, and she had believed in the Christ – the Messiah. Come and see! Come and see for yourselves!

In this season of Lent, this is truly a story of repentance, by the power of the Holy Spirit, which leads others to repentance and faith in Jesus, the Savior of the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

The Word of God creates a thirst for righteousness in the heart of a sinner and then quenches that thirst with the gift of Jesus Himself, the Water of Life, the Sun of Righteousness.

This wasn't a chance meeting by the omniscient Son of God. This was Jesus plan. This was His strategy. Like a GPS guided drone, Jesus honed in on Jacob's well in the land of Sychar. Guided by great love and mercy, Jesus went on His mission. For there He knew a woman would be coming to the well, a Samaritan woman, who having been saved, would then take the Gospel to a village of people who also would be saved.

Jesus came to the well because that's where people had to go for one of life's essentials – water. Where are the Jacob's wells of today where people gather and talk and where Christians can speak the Word of God to quench the same thirst of sinful people?

Our Gospel says in verse 3 that Jesus needed to go this route on His way to Jerusalem.

**“He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria.”**

Where are you needed to go to the lives of people you know to create a thirst for the truth? Guided by God's love and mercy which you have seen and believed, where is the Holy Spirit leading you to have a conversation with another about the water of life?

The woman at the well wasn't immediately interested in talking about spiritual things. Her focus was on the task of filling the waterpot and going back home. She had done this many times. It was a routine, a laborious routine that she didn't particularly enjoy doing. Because when Jesus told her about a water that would quench her thirst, she like the idea of not having to come back to the well.

**“15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”**

Jesus had peaked her curiosity. But now Jesus' plan was to show her what was really thirsty – her parched soul.

She didn't want to come back to the well if she didn't have to, but Jesus wanted her to come back with her husband. At that moment the conversation turned to spiritual things of the heart.

**17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”** Maybe she thought she could avoid this directive by Jesus by actually telling Him the truth. But this was not an ordinary man with whom she was speaking. Jesus knew everything about her...that she had had 5 husbands and the man she was currently with was not her husband. That little word “and” seems to indicate that her previous marriages were not all without sin on her part. Maybe the previous 5 husbands had died and freed her to remarry each time, we don't know. But her current relationship of living with a man to whom she was not married was not what God desired.

As we know that the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment speaks of the gift of marriage which God wants held in honor and protected from adultery and fornication. Living together without being married lacks a commitment between a man and a woman and of course, a blessing from God.

Jesus complete knowledge of her personal life took her by surprise. She believed that she was talking to a prophet. But most of all, Jesus created a thirst in her heart to confess her sins and then quench her thirst in the gift of the water of life.

**“whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

And her thirst was quenched by the truth. She worshipped Jesus in truth by the well. It didn't matter if she was not in Jerusalem, if she was a Samaritan, if she was a woman or man. She went to the men and told them about the One who knew everything about her and boldly asked the rhetorical question expecting a “yes” answer. Is He not the Christ?

The woman knew about the coming of the Messiah, even though she was a Samaritan and had been influenced by foreign gods. Jesus plainly and lovingly told her the truth of who He was.

**“25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”**

**26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”**

Come and see! Our Gospel reading says two things happened.

**“9 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word.**

**42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”**

Some believed from the woman’s testimony of God’s Word and others believed by the Word of Jesus Himself. For they did come and see. The Word of God is powerful and creates faith and does not return void. This was the harvest that Jesus saw.

**“35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”**

This is the harvest that Jesus wanted His disciples to see. Some sow and some reap. This is the harvest that Jesus wants each of us to see.

Come and see, we also say. It may be off putting or scary to come and see Someone who knows everything about you. For everything about each of us is not something that we want reveal, is it? We all know how we have broken the commandments of God.

And yet, the message of Jesus not only includes the harsh law, but the beautiful Gospel of the water of life – the gift of life – now and into eternity – everlasting life.

For listen to our epistle from Romans 5:

**“6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

Come and see ...come and hear the Word of God , Jesus Christ, the Messiah who died for all the ungodly and reconciled the world to Himself by His death. Receive this reconciliation through His Word and Sacraments.

And having seen and believed , go now and find the wells where people gather and lead them to know the truth of the One who is the Water of Life.

Amen

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**