

Living the Word

A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

Session 10

Luke 24:13-35

“Jacob’s well”



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

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OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. (Prayer for the New Evangelization-USCCB)

OPENING PSALM

(one person take line 1 and one person take line 2)

Psalm 67

The Nations Called to Praise God

You must know that God is offering his salvation to all the world (Acts 28:28).

Group 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah* that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Group 2 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, or you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

Group 1 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

Group 2 May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/user26947741/review/522800961/3d3a3a77e0>

THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

"If you knew the gift of God."

where then can you get this living water?

John 4:4-15

Jesus had to pass through Samaria. So he 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 well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well 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."

REFLECTION

Every day under the heat of a midday sun a lone woman went to Jacob's well to draw water. If you are like me, from a small town, you realize we are never really alone. The neighborhood watch is always alive and alert. We all know who is walking by our homes, whose car is parked outside, and when the neighbors usually get back from work. Most everyone in the town would know our story.

The people of the small Samaritan town of Sychar would certainly have known the life story of the woman who went to the well to draw water and why she was alone? She would not have been welcome in the cool hours of the day to enjoy friendly conversation with a supportive community. The heat of the day protected her from the scorn of unwelcome comments and looks. Each day she went there alone.

Jesus is drawn to those who are alone. There were many other routes to Galilee from Judea, but the scriptures said that he “had to pass through Samaria.” This route was not directed by his phone, by Google Maps. This route passed through the heart of mercy of the heavenly Father, Jesus, who is the Father’s own heart.

Jesus was tired and very aware that he was in an unwelcome place during an unwelcome time. The unnamed woman was a Samaritan, a half-Jewish from a people who had taken on the customs and religious practices of gentiles, and most likely not in a state of grace in her life.

But Jesus is drawn to her. He thirsts for her. He had to go that way. Every day she had gone there safely, to be alone, to draw the water that would only keep her for that day. Amid all of the signs that would seem to say “keep away,” Jesus just starts to talk with her and begins by asking her for help. “Give me a drink.”

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.)

Why are you talking to me? Why should I help you? That might be the only conversation you have with someone at first. Why do you care? Can’t you just leave me alone and let me get on with my life? And inside, “Who is this person?” No one has reached out to me in such a long time. Remember that those to whom Jesus sends us will be in all sorts of places in their lives and so will we. Jesus was tired, but she was alone and He thirsted for her.

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 well is deep; where then can you get this living water?"

The depth that Jesus goes to in just a few familiar verses might take us years. But it will start with our noticing that every day someone we see is more alone than we ever realized. Someone at work or at the store has chosen to walk outside of the circles of comfort and community because that do not feel welcome. They may be successful, but they thirst for companionship and meaning in their life. They may feel their past determines their future.

Every day the Father’s heart of mercy, Jesus, thirsts for someone and desires that they drink deeply from the waters of New Life. If we are to have a heart of mercy, we too must find a way to thirst for the companionship the Lord desires to have with those in our small town.

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

First Joyful mystery – Annunciation, Our Father, 10 Hail Mary’s, Glory be.

RELECTION QUESTIONS

Who are the people who reach out to me every day? What would my life be like without those life-giving waters in my life?

CALL TO ACTION

Look around with a heart of mercy. Who do you see?

Humbly ask someone to help you.

Find some simple phrases that you might use “every day” to greet people with the life-giving waters of the Gospel. “God bless you.” “Thank you.” “See you again tomorrow.”

Share your story. Give people an opportunity to share theirs.

CLOSING PRAYER

Going Forth As Disciples Diocesan Prayer

Jesus, you send your disciples on mission to make God’s love and mercy known. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we go forth as your missionary disciples, reflecting God’s love in the world and speaking the name of Jesus to others. May the Going Forth As Disciples ministry bear fruit in our community and parish as it prepares us to accompany others toward You and Your Church. Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.