

Mass Mar15 3rd Lent

EXODUS 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for **water**, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of **thirst** with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!”

The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river.

I will be standing there in front of you on the **rock** in Horeb.

Strike the rock, and the **water** will flow from it for the people to drink.”

This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.

The place was called **Massah** and **Meribah**,
because the Israelites **quarreled** there
and **tested** the LORD, saying,

Meribah = quarrel

Massah = test

“Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

*So they don't yet trust God! How Little they **HOPE**.
SIGNS often don't work convincing—US—either.*

PSALM Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9.

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

let us acclaim the **rock** of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Note the contrast:

Hard rock & a God solid as rock;
...harden NOT our **hearts**.

Come, let us **bow down** in worship;

let us **kneel** before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are **the people he shepherds**,

***the flock he guides.**

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

“Harden not your hearts as at **Meribah**,

as in the day of **Massah** in the desert,

Where your fathers **tempted me**;

they **tested me** though they had seen my works.”

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

ROMANS 5:1-2, 5-8 {Paul did write Romans himself.}

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in **hope** of the glory of God.

And **hope** does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the **Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

*God shows his love for us
while we were still sinners
like the Jews in the Sinai*

Verse Before the Gospel from John 4:42, 15 {no *Alleluia* in Lent}

{These are the words of the **Samaritan** woman!
John puts words of belief in the mouths of others}
Lord, you are truly the **Savior of the world**;
give me **living water**, that I may never thirst again.

GOSPEL JOHN 4:5-42

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?" **John points this out for those who might not know*
—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, [*# exactly JOHN's point—as a QUESTION!*]
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**."

[This next dialogue will enable her to recognize that Jesus is a Prophet.]

Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back."

The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband."

Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband.

What you have said is true."

The woman said to him, "Sir, 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."

Remember John wrote his Gospel
after the Jews kicked the Xtians
out of the Synagogue!
Next comes: ~~Neither on this mountain~~

{ This next section is a Discourse which John uses to show the MEANING of the story. }

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,

{ putting the English **he** weakens the idea! Of Yahweh!

“****I am he**, the one speaking with you.”

see explanation in Intro about: **I AM = Yahweh;

Gk has only **I + AM** the
ἐγώ εἰμι name of God
I am given to Moses

and Samaritans expected a new **MOSES**,
not a new **DAVID**, because **David had been**
King of Judah, *not of Samaria.* }

{ may be skipped }

[At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

[They and we often can’t figure God out!]

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?”

[notice she took a chance and now went out among the village people.]

They went out of the town and came to him.

Another discourse here—for US.

Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

So the disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.

(What ‘feeds me’ and keeps me going is doing the WILL of God.

Working to establish God’s Kingdom on Earth. How about YOU and ME?)

Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’?

I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; @others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work.”

[@ others are the prophets who planted the seeds of belief in a coming Messiah.]

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him

Irony: Women can’t be a witness!

because of the word of the woman who testified,

God again picks the least likely!

“He told me everything I have done.”]

{ Xt a Jew stayed with the Samaritans! }

When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them;

and he stayed there **two days**.

{ Another insignificant detail = veracity. }

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.”

{ Here JOHN in this last verse gives us his main POINT, so we don’t miss it!

CHRIST is the Word of GOD, who reveals The Father Yahweh to His People. }