



Father Danny Murphy is a retired Pastor from Brooklyn NY. A gifted man with a God given talent to inspire and God's gift to us at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach Florida. This is just another one of his inspirational homilies.

Fr. Danny Murphy – Third Sunday of Lent – 2017

Jesus came to a town in 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.

In those days, a woman would never come to a well to draw water alone, she would always come with other women. So it seems that this woman was an outcast. But not for Jesus, Jesus started a conversation with her – no one is an outcast with Jesus.

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 the 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 I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." 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."

Do you think Jesus said those words to her harshly because she had had five husbands or did he say them gently? It seems to me that the only time Jesus was harsh is when he was dealing with hypocrites. When he was talking to people with fears, sins, shortcomings; people like the Samaritan woman, people like us – he was always gentle.

The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped 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 worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in 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; 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 (who is)

speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned and were amazed that he was talking with a woman... Why were they amazed that he was talking with a woman? Jesus always treated women equally, graciously, respectfully. He saw that this woman's life was out of order, so he helped her put it back together again. That's what Jesus did and that's what he still does...but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 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?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food 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. Do you not say, 'in four months the harvest will be here?'

Usually, huge crowds followed Jesus. Today, his harvest was ONE. But he spent as much time and as much attention with the ONE as he would have with the many. With Jesus it's always as if I'm the only one! I will tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for 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." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." 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."

Dear Jesus, we can learn about you from the scriptures, from the saints. We can learn about you from popes and priests, from preachers and teachers. But, please, dear Jesus, let each of us do what the people in the town of Samaria did – to learn about you from you yourself!