

John 4 v5-15

In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." The woman answered, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan - so how can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus answered, "If only you knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water." "Sir," the woman said, "You haven't got a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his sons and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?" Jesus answered, "All those who drink this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life." "Sir," the woman said, "Give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water."

1. What is the symbolic meaning of Jesus' offer to the woman at the well?
2. What does this say for our routine daily encounters with people?
3. The Lectionary groups these three readings together. Why?

God was with the Israelites even though they did not recognise Him. Jesus wants to have a relationship with each and every one of us. With God sitting along side of us we do not need to ask whether God is with us or not.

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Notes for Online@9 Worship Service
on 24 February 2008

‘Where’s God?’

Exodus 17 v1-7

The whole Israelite community left the desert of Sin, moving from one place to another at the command of the Lord. They made camp at Rephidim, but there was no water there to drink. They complained to Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses answered, “Why are you complaining? Why are you putting the Lord to the test?” But the people were very thirsty and continued to complain to Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? To kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” Moses prayed earnestly to the Lord and said, “What can I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Take some of the leaders of Israel with you, and go on ahead of the people. Take along the stick with which you struck the Nile. I will stand before you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” Moses did so in the presence of the leaders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites complained and put the Lord to the test when they asked, “Is the Lord with us or not?”

1. Who are the Israelites blaming for the lack of water?
2. When things go wrong for us how do we respond? Do we blame those around us?

Psalm 95

Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise. For the Lord is a mighty God, a mighty king over all the gods. He rules over the whole earth, from the deepest caves to the highest hills. He rules over the sea, which he made; the land also, which he himself formed. Come, let us bow down and worship him; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! He is our God; we are the people he cares for, the flock for which he provides. Listen today to what he says; “Don’t be stubborn, as your ancestors were at Meribah, as they were that day in the desert at Massah. There they put me to the test and tried me, although they had seen what I did for them. For forty years I was disgusted with those people. I said, ‘How disloyal they are! They refuse to obey my commands.’ I was angry and made a solemn promise: ‘You will never enter the land where I would have given you rest.’”

1. What was the message in this Psalm for the Israelites - and what are the implications in this for our lives today?