

Monday and Tuesday:

Chapter 4

AN EXPRESSION OF CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US

*"But He **needed** to go through Samaria"*

- Read Chapter 4: 1-33
- Christ came to Jacob's well 'wearied' and asking for a drink. He had sent his disciples into the city to buy food. Christ, who had fasted forty days in the Desert and overcome the Devil is now asking a woman for drink? Why did Christ start a conversation with a Samaritan, a despised race, and a woman who was ashamed to be near her own people? How did the Samaritan woman react to Jesus telling her she had more than one husband? How do we react when someone accuses us of doing something wrong? After confession, are we as joyful as the Samaritan woman and ready to proclaim God's Word? If Jesus came to the sinful Samaritan woman, won't He be willing to come to you as well?

'unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe'

- Read John 4: 39-43 and John 5:10-16. Compare the reaction of the Samaritans and the Jews to Jesus. No miracle was performed for the Samaritans and yet they believed in Him.
- Do we need miracles to keep our faith alive? The Samaritans talked to Jesus and had a personal relationship with Him. Do we have a personal relationship with Jesus?

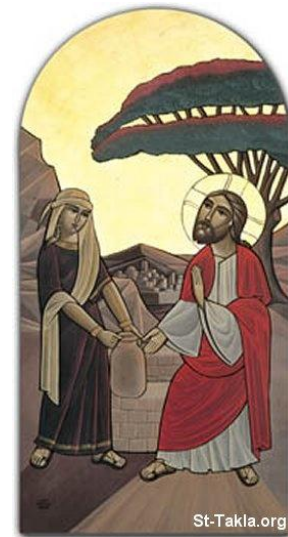
Did You Know?

The name "Samaritans" in 2 Ki 17:29 applies to the Israelite inhabitants of the Northern Kingdom. In subsequent history it denotes a people of mixed origin, composed of the peoples brought in by the conquering Assyrians and those Israelites who did not flee. They were hated so much by the Jews for this reason – the Samaritans were no longer "pure Jews" but had mixed with other races...

Later when the Temple at Jerusalem was being rebuilt, the Samaritans offered to help but their offer was rejected. As a result they tried to prevent the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 4:1-5) and the city walls. They also built a temple for themselves on Mount Gerazim near Shechem (the site of Jacob's well).

Many conflicts existed between the Jews and the Samaritans during the time of Christ. "Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a demon" was an expression of harsh condemnation (Jn 8:48)

The New Testament contains many passages with significant references to Samaritans: the Samaritan woman (John 4), and the grateful Samaritan (Luke 17:16), and the good Samaritan (Luke 10:33ff.). They are also mentioned in the Book of Acts when Philip preached there and they received the gospel



Wednesday and Thursday

Chapter 5

- The Sheep gate was re-built in the time of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 3:1). This is the gate by which sheep and oxen for sacrifice were brought into Jerusalem.
- When we have sinned, we are like the sick; 'blind, lame, paralyzed'. These people were waiting for the Sacrificial Lamb Who would take away the sins of the World, yet they did not recognise Him when He arrived.
- Why did Christ first ask the man 'do you want to be made well?' - Is the answer obvious? When we come to confession, sometimes we are repeating ourselves to the priest. Perhaps we should ask ourselves before we go to confession, '**Do we want to be made well of our sins?**'

Gospel of St John

‘Read John 5:19-38, then John 6:36-40. What is the relationship between the Father and the Son?’

This is why we appeal to the Father through the Son continually. In the prayer of Thanksgiving we say:

‘By the grace, compassion, and love of mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son; our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him and the Holy Spirit ...Now and at all times and unto the age of all ages. Amen’



Highlight the areas mentioned in these chapters

- Sychor: - Jesus met the Samaritan woman
- Cana: Jesus met the nobleman
- Capernaum: the nobleman's hometown
- Jerusalem: the paralytic man was healed
- Tiberias: feeding of the 5,000
- Sea of Galilee: Jesus walks on water

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life...But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life’ John 5:39-40



Depiction of St John in the Catholic Indian Church

Friday and Saturday: Chapter 6

Christ tests the faith of His Disciples

- Our school teachers evaluate how well we understood a subject through assessments. Do you think the disciples' passed their first assessment?
- Our school assessments may be difficult. If we rely on ourselves, the workload seems too great, even impossible. How did Christ approach the mammoth task of feeding 5,000 people? Perhaps we should do the same...

The Bread of Life

Compare the Offertory in the Liturgy of St Basil to vs 56-57: *And this Bread He makes into His Holy Body. **Congregation:** We believe. Amen. **Priest:** Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, given for the remission of sins and eternal life to those who shall partake of Him.*

My blood abides in Me, and I in him...so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me’ (vs56,57)
Do we respect Communion as important for our existence? The Jews did not honour Christ. The Samaritans ‘urged Him to stay with them’. Who are we like? How do we approach Communion?