

March 12, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

WHERE THE WATER'S RUNNIN' FREE

By Julie Mussché

Excerpts from Today's Readings

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?..." 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...."

EXODUS 17:3, 5-7

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?”—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...”

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....”

JOHN 4:4-10, 13-15

Reflection

Reading through this Sunday’s scripture portions, a song popped up in my psyche and kept on rounding around my consciousness. When I was a small child, a song sung by Marty Robbins and a variety of other artists, “Cool, Clear Water,” was quite popular. It had a catchy refrain and told the story of a man wandering through the desert with his pack animal Dan, both struggling to find a drink of water. The lyrics describe the character’s struggle to find “cool, clear water” and the mirages he encounters along the way, with the song naming the hallucinations a devil, and the hope that “He’ll hear our prayer” and lead them both to water.

In the readings today, water features strongly as a symbol of possibilities, hope and God’s presence. Is there not an analogy to the spiritual life in the context of thirst for and the potential for refreshment from God? Have you ever trekked through a spiritual desert, a time where your prayer life appears wrung out, and God seems to exist at a far distance or to be absent? Like the Israelites, have you grumbled to God? Or, like the Samaritan woman, have you requested to drink in the hope of alleviating a deep and abiding thirst? Have there been mirages along the way, things that seemed to be true but then have disappeared?

Perhaps it is no coincidence that Lent starts out in the desert with Jesus being tempted by Satan; and that as we move toward the crescendo of the season, water is featured as we celebrate new and renewed baptismal vows, and the refreshment of new and different spiritual practices. We are called to turn toward and seek out God in the midst of vastness. Here we are, more than

halfway through Lent. May your journey be filled with exploration.



Photo of Multnomah Falls, OR
By Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- How is your journey through Lent going so far?

- Where has God met you along the way?

Closing Prayer

*Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

JOHN 4:42,15

Today's Gospel Acclamation

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