

Waiting for God

What is it to be really thirsty? – to be literally dying for water?

Hopefully we will never be in that place but many throughout the world daily face these very issues and the shortage of water in our world is very real. It is a climate change issue and a great challenge to humanity in the future.

How precious is water?

Water is one of the most important things on earth. Every living thing needs water for its survival. Without water, plants, animals, microbes - everything, will perish.

Our bodies are composed of about 75% water. So, we are literally walking bags of water! Water allows our blood to flow through the blood vessels thus supplying the body with vital nutrients.

Our need for water becomes very apparent when we are thirsty. The taste of water going down the throat is something we all find so much pleasure in. We drink glasses of this precious transparent liquid every day. It is vital to our life.

The first civilizations of man started near rivers. In our opening story in our sacred book, we have two rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates.

These major rivers played a large part in the evolution of man.

Water is used for drinking, washing, cleaning and just about any activity we care to do. Without water, living is virtually impossible.

As long as there is life on this planet, water will be here. Without it, life as we know it, is impossible. Thus, it is important for us to know how precious water is. We ought not to waste it or pollute it by any means. Water is just too precious.

When you don't have it -water is more precious than gold or silver.

In the Saud Arabian desert, thousands upon thousands of years ago, weary travellers are crying out to Moses and asking the big question why? Why? Have you taken us here; in the desert, ; they were parched; they were in course for death?

They were thirsting for water and their lives were endangered.

Moses turns to God in prayer– what am I going to do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!

They had turned on their leader and laid the blame of their thirst squarely on his shoulders.

Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test? Said Moses!

Moses saw that the people were testing the Lord`s ability to save them and bring them through this land. The wilderness experience was about waiting on God and developing their faith, God was preparing them for the promised land.

But waiting on God is never an easy experience!

Prior to leaving Egypt, Moses had sold them a story of a promised land – a land full of milk and honey – he didn`t tell them of the journey to get there – of the obstacles and the challenges – the thirst and the hunger.

But now was crisis time, as the people were turning against him and Moses takes this issue to the Lord and the Lord makes a way for him and his people.

Strike the rock and water will come out of it!

God answers their plea. Water from a rock – yes, this is God`s way of supplying their needs. Nobody would have thought to strike a rock for water and yet it is scientifically proven that this can indeed work. Underlying water is drawn to the surface through gravity and limestone, porous rock, when opened, can become a fountain.

What rock do we need to strike today? How can our thirst be quenched?

Remember Jesus said, and on this rock I will build my church – what rock? The profession of faith that Peter gave to Jesus – You are the Christ, the Son of God. This is a rock that has already been struck on the hill of calvary, where God`s love was poured out for this world.

Let us move to the gospel story, we meet with a tired Jesus thirsty for water. His body also was crying out for physical water. It is noon time, the sun is at its highest and he is in the open air beside a well, where he enters into conversation with a Samaritan woman.

We are told that he had to go through Samaria – why did he have to go through? – because he had a divine appointment with this Samaritan woman. She was a woman in distress, a woman who was ostracised and isolated and her soul was crying out for spiritual water. She was thirsty for friendship and community, she sat on the fringes and outside of her circle.

Jesus is able to see into her soul and he knows that she is literally like a rock, she is hard on the outside but there is something within which Jesus can bring to life. She is battered and bruised by life – her marks were obvious to Christ. He can tell that her lifestyle has been difficult and challenging – she has gone from one relationship to another – perhaps through no fault of her own – as women had very little say in relationships in these days – they were property and property which could be so easily discarded.

One of my favourite songs is by Simon Garfunkel. I am a rock.

I Am a Rock

[Paul Simon](#)

A winter's day

In a deep and dark

December

I am alone

Gazing from my window to the streets below

On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow

I am a rock

I am an island

I've built walls

A fortress deep and mighty

That none may penetrate

I have no need of friendship, friendship causes pain

It's laughter and it's loving I disdain

I am a rock

I am an island

Don't talk of love

But I've heard the words before

It's sleeping in my memory

I won't disturb the slumber of feelings that have died

If I never loved I never would have cried

I am a rock

I am an island

I have my books

And my poetry to protect me

I am shielded in my armour

Hiding in my room, safe within my womb

I touch no one and no one touches me
I am a rock
I am an island
And a rock feels no pain
And an island never cries

I love those words of poetry.

Jesus looks into her soul and I believe he feels her pain – will you give me a drink, he said to her, reverse psychology at work here... He's opening discussion, he leads with a question and a challenge.

There were very good political and religious reasons why she should not give him a drink. She was a Samaritan – a half breed – an outcast – a group despised by the Jews, considered to be folks that had sold their religion – sold their birth rights by intermarrying and prostituting their beliefs.

So, she is a Samaritan and the second reason, that she shouldn't give him a drink is that she is women and no self-respecting Jewish man, would give her the time of day.

How you can ask me that question? she said.

Jesus pushes the boundaries – he sees this person, not merely as a Samaritan or as a woman, he sees this person as someone, who is in need of grace, love and mercy – someone in need of God's gracious and merciful touch.

It's a beautiful story that gets to the heart of who Christ is and what his mission was all about.

Last week, you may remember that he encountered the religious leader Nicodemus and he meets him, where he is in life, he sees Nicodemus as someone who was searching for meaning and purpose to life- someone who was trying to find God through his religion and this wasn't possible because he needed to start afresh and from a different base. His religion had become like a maze and Nicodemus was tied up in knots.

Today we meet a totally different character – poles apart – everything about them was completely opposing and this is what makes this story fascinating, is that Jesus is as every bit concerned for the outcast as he was for the one at centre of the circle and her needs were as important as the religious leader.

And he tells her that he can give her life-giving water. He sees her life, like the well that is before him. It is deep and running dry and what she needs and what

he can give is a spring of fresh water. “The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” He said.

Jesus is telling her,, that I can give you something which will transform your life for ever – not just a quick fix to satisfy you for a moment in time but something which will flow through you until you reach eternity.

It’s a story of great challenge, to the church today, for it asks us who do we know whose lives are like this Samaritan – who are the folks who are isolated, who see themselves as being like a rock or an island – cut off, marginalised, despised, hated even and not accepted by the church, society or anyone.

It’s a story that may speak into our own situations, for there may be times, when we also feel like this woman, when we feel isolated and our heart is hard like a rock – who can we turn to?

Well, the answer is, in this story, we can turn to Christ, who will refresh our lives. He offers us forgiveness, that’s what his cross is all about and that forgiveness continues to cleanse us throughout our lives – so the first thing that we experience, is renewal for we are forgiven through the cross of Jesus and then we share with him in the Christian life, he takes our burdens and literally joins us at the hip as we walk through life.

That’s the kind of life friend we need, isn’t it – someone who will be there for us...always!!

So, it’s a message of transformation.

A friend of mine, who has gone through a very tough time in their life wrote this for me about our passages..

“Like the metaphorical well he provides water to quench our thirst. He provides for our physical being. However, deeper than that, Faith in Him, is the metaphorical water that will satisfy the thirst of our inner being. Our soul. He will provide us with a deeper, richer, joyful, purposeful and more fulfilling life.

God is life.

God wants us to trust in him. Have a relationship with him, acknowledge him, praise him and seek him. By worship, this relationship is established. By reading His word, meditating on it, and following it we connect to the Holy Spirit.

He will open our eyes and present himself.

He will show us the correct path.

Lean on Him.

God is life!”

What wonderful words by someone who knows them and experienced them recently to be true.

Maybe today, is a day when God`s living water will fill your soul and refresh you also.