

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

John 4:5-42

Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him. In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, eat. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them: and He abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

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God's Holy Church is continuing to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The defeat of death and the establishment of life everlasting merits the extended celebration by the Church.

Sundays following the celebration of Pascha are periods of great joy. The Church continues to proclaim and celebrate Jesus Christ's Resurrection until the Second Coming of the Lord.

The Church witnesses to the Resurrection and is evidence of the Living Christ. Jesus Christ is present in and through the Church. Believers are united with and experience Jesus Christ in the Church.

Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well resulted in the woman having an increased understanding of Jesus. The woman shared her personal experience with Jesus with other Samaritans.

When the other Samaritans learned about Jesus and came to hear Him, they became convinced of their own accord that Jesus was the Savior of the world. The present Gospel verifies for believers that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

The living water from Jesus leading to everlasting life continues to be available in God's Holy Church. Every person is free to drink from the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.

Repentance facilitates and makes each person more receptive to the nourishing water from Christ. Repentance is the act of faith demonstrating commitment to follow Christ to the eternal Kingdom.

Christ offers Himself through the Church to persons seeking everlasting life. Christ is present in all places for persons to unite with Him. The Samaritan woman demonstrated by example the ease to personally experience Christ.

Everyone can converse with Jesus Christ through prayer. Living water can be drawn and received from Christ in the Divine services of the Church. The saints and martyrs are proof of the value of drawing nourishment from Christ.

The Sundays following Pascha radiate the joy of the Resurrection. Resurrection joy transforms serious believers. Resurrection joy is the basis for daily living.

The Paschal troparion: "Christ is Risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon the tombs bestowing life!" sets forth and celebrates the truth of the Resurrection.

Truth matters in daily living and throughout life. On this Sunday of the Samaritan Woman following Pascha, believers learn about the living water flowing from Jesus. The Resurrected Jesus Christ is the fountain of life everlasting.

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The Holy Prophet Jeremiah. May 1/14, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic