

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 Messias 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)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!  
Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

### The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

God's Holy Church is moving with certainty through the days of celebrating Pascha. The days are drawing closer to the Feast of the Holy Ascension. Beyond the Feast of the Ascension awaits the Feast of Pentecost. This is a wonderful time in the Church.

The joy of Pascha continues to fill the air. Resurrection joy abounds. The Resurrected Christ defeated death. The Resurrected Christ provides peace, hope and joy for every person. Jesus Christ is the Light that removes darkness from life.

The Feast of Ascension keeps the focus on joy. In the Gospel of St. Luke, following Christ's Ascension, we read the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God."(Lk.24:52-53)

The Feast of Pentecost fills the mind with thoughts of the descent of the Holy Spirit. We are a Trinitarian Church. We profess belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit beginning at Baptism and throughout our earthly lives.

Life in the Church is blessed and fulfilling. Life in the Church fosters growth in Jesus Christ. Believers are to grow in Christ throughout life. The Church nurtures and teaches believers in their journey to God's Kingdom and eternal life.

The Samaritan woman was fully attentive when talking with Jesus. Jesus made a profound impact on the woman. Jesus Christ makes a profound on us when we are attentive. We grow and mature when we embrace Jesus Christ in our heart, mind and soul.

The Samaritan woman told others of her experience with Jesus at the well. She had a decided effect on other people. People were drawn to Jesus due to the Samaritan woman telling of her experience with Him.

The Samaritans told the woman that had been at the well: "We believe not because of what you said, , for we ourselves have heard Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast."(Jn.4:42)

Individuals have personal experiences with Jesus Christ in prayer, in the Divine services, and in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. Believers have personal experiences with Jesus Christ when listening to and reading the Holy Gospel.

Personal experiences with Christ take place as a result of intercessory prayers of loved ones and of the saints and martyrs. The Mother of God has inspired many individuals to draw closer to Christ and to cling to Him with fervor.

Saints and martyrs live in ways that leave no doubt regarding their complete commitment to Christ. Individuals witnessing and learning about the lives of the saints and martyrs are influenced by their examples.

Today is important in the life of each individual. The time of life guaranteed is the moment of time being lived. The future is not guaranteed. The past is gone not to be lived again.

The way life is lived reflects the person's basic belief in God. Individuals using the time of life to glorify God and to live in ways pleasing to God will fully experience the Lord's presence. Glorifying and seeking God leads to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

The Samaritan woman was fully enriched in her direct experience with Jesus Christ. May we be fully enriched with the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives as we seek His Kingdom and the salvation of our souls.

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The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. St. Apostle Simeon, the Kinsman of the Lord. Burning of the Relics of St. Sava on Vrachar. Father Rodney Torbic