

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT 2023.

THE MEETING AT LOVERS WELL!

Many young people of American and Europe may not understand the struggle of getting water miles away and in wells and Rivers carrying heavy jerrycans of water. It is a dream to have running water in the house in many communities in Kenya. Thanks to the St. As parishioners for continue generosity in providing Water tank in our ***Turning wine to water project***. People going for half a mile to get water in these tanks feels as though the water is in the house!

In today's readings we meet people with **acute thirst**. In Exodus(17:3-7) we encounter the Israelites facing Moses and grumbling that ***why did you bring us from Egypt to make us die of thirst with our children and cattle(Ex.17:3)***. They need water and God through Moses provided them with this necessity of life. Yahweh told Moses ***strike the Rock with your staff and the water flowed(Ex.17:6).people were quenched.***

In the Gospel we meet a Samaritan woman who moved by **thirst** had come to fetch water in the village well commonly known as **Jacob's well(Lovers well! This** is where Jacob met his wives Rachael and Leah (Gen.28:9-30).

The Samaritan woman had gone for water at an extraordinary time in the afternoon when no one would go that time possibly to avoid nasty look and comments from other women who had made her an object of discussion and gossip in the town due to her current married situation. Jesus behaved in an extraordinary manner to her **one she was a woman, second she was Samaritan** there was hatred between Jews and Samaritan always. Jesus went beyond that, He didn't **avoid her, judge or walk away from her** rather he spoke to her **Give me a drink(Jn.4:7)** and **started communication with the scared woman who is nameless and marginalized in her society** due to her way of life and Jesus realized her situation. He **reached** out to her with **compassion in her situation and time. Might she be representing us by the virtue of being nameless?** Jesus will always reach to us **whatever time, place or situation.** Jesus knows all our **past life, present life but these are not**

obstacles to reach us at all. He is interested in what we can become in our future life. we can meet him any time and place. He doesn't condemn us in our past life which he knows very well. He wants us to turn to him always.

The Samaritan woman turned to Jesus. She recognizes him as **sir, master, prophet, messiah.** In her excitement she discovered who Jesus was **savior not only of Jews but the world** realizing this she even left the jar of water and **ran to that community she had avoided, she went, witnessed and preached about Jesus to them and they came to Jesus (Jn. 4:39)** She became an apostle. Are we not called to develop such a relationship with our Lord and preach about him to others? We need to start **that conversation with Christ beginning now and we will discover who he is. we will get the spring of life in us through him.** Is he not telling us **come to me who are thirsty?** Christ doesn't have to show up in radical, **light, thunder, but will reach us where we are in our ordinary way of life, of sharing, food, water and wine.**

We need only to break that **stumbling Rock on our way and we get the spring of living water to quench our thirst in Jesus.**

We strike the rocks of **anger to let peace of Christ enter, rocks of envy to let grace of gratitude in, Rock of lust that we may appreciate human value and dignity, rocks of glutton/addictions to release grace of temperament and finally the rocks of pride to bring grace of honest** In all these we have the staff like that of Moses to strike these vices through **PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING.**