

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT, March 19, 2017

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READINGS:

Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2 ,6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2. 5-8; Gospel - John 4:5-42

“Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman...”

The Samaritan woman was transformed by Jesus from doubtful searcher to committed evangelizer!

REFLECTION:

The Gospel narrative of the woman at the well recounts, not a parable, which is a popular teaching technique of Jesus, but a real live encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. It all seems to occur by happenstance. Neither Jesus nor the woman appear to have planned this meeting, but Jesus, despite his weariness, engages the woman in a challenging conversation that ultimately leads to her conversion. After initial disbelief, she is inspired to make the statement: “I can see that you are a prophet.” John 4:19 So awestruck is the woman that she leaves her water bucket at the well and goes into the town to proclaim the good news: “Come and see a man who told me everything I have done.” John 4:29 Jesus, by his gentle, affirming, yet challenging presence, awakens the dormant faith of the Samaritan woman, and she, in turn, is compelled to spread this faith to her neighbors.

PRAYER:

Jesus, by your patience, understanding and gentle words of wisdom, you brought about the conversion of the Samaritan woman. Help us to know the value of reflection on your words and actions, so that we may, like this woman, be true evangelizers and thus further your Kingdom here on earth.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Read the entire passage of the woman at the well (John 4:5-42), and choose one way you might be an evangelizer of this “good news.”