

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

- *From the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist March 10, 1995*

The setting for the gospel account in the liturgy today is once again in a Samaritan town. We find Jesus at Jacob's well. His disciples had gone off to the town to procure some food

As circumstances unfolded, we hear the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman who had come to the well to draw water. She was taken back by the fact that He would even speak to her – not only was she a Samaritan whom Jesus despised, but a woman.

Jesus was reaching out once again to someone who was considered to be a public sinner and one who was rejected by all others, including her own people. Not only did Jesus speak to this woman, but He offered her the hope of a better life – and more importantly, the hope of eternal life. Her heart was filled with wonder and excitement as she made her way back to the town to recount to all who would listen the story of “a man who has told me everything I have done; could this be the Christ?”

The disciples were completely confused when they returned from the town with the food because Jesus

seemed to have no interest in eating. They did not understand the meaning of “food” of which He spoke.

Samaritans of the town came out immediately upon hearing the woman's encounter. They were filled with enthusiasm, and they pleaded with Jesus to stay on for awhile with them. So often Jesus faced rejection when He traveled and when He taught. Here, in this enclave of despised Samaritans, Jesus was accepted – without question. These people were eager to hear His teachings and the gospel of John tells us, “He stayed for two days, and many came to believe in Him on the strength of the work He spoke to them.”

In our own lives, Jesus speaks to us over and over again. We hear Him in the Scriptures, of course, but He comes to us in many other forms as well. People who enter our lives for the short term or over the long term – in brief encounters or long, sustained relationships. We hear the voice of God in the inspirations which are a part of daily life – the chance opportunities that come into each of our lives which we can accept or reject. Indeed, Jesus has the “words of eternal life,”....the water that will become a spring of life within,” “the bread which is His Body.” Our lives are filled with the opportunity of saying “Yes!” as did the Samaritans, or of saying “No!” as did so many of the chosen.

四旬期第三主日 (3/12/2023)

- 摘自John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1995年3月10日

今天的弥撒福音再次发生在撒玛黎雅的一座城。我们在雅各伯的井边找到耶稣。那时他的门徒们去城里寻觅食物。

事情是这样展现在我们面前：我们听到耶稣跟一位来井边打水的撒玛黎雅妇人的对话。她被（眼前）耶稣竟然跟她讲话的事实征服了- 因为她不仅是个撒玛黎雅人，而且还是个妇人。

耶稣再次向一个公认的罪人伸出了双手，她不仅被外族人拒绝，还遭到她本族人的唾弃。耶稣不仅同这位妇人讲话，更重要的是还承诺给她一个更好生活的希望 - 即永生的希望。撒玛黎雅妇人在回城的路上心中充满好奇和兴奋，向所有愿意听她故事的人诉说：“有一个人说出了我所做过的一切事；莫非他就是默西亚吗？”

当门徒们从城里带着食物返回后耶稣似乎对吃东西一点儿也不感兴趣，这让门徒们很困惑。他们搞不懂耶稣所说的【食物】是什么意思。

听到那妇人的叙述后，城里的撒玛黎雅人立即出了城。他们满怀热忱，请求耶稣在他们那里住一阵子。耶稣在各地宣讲时常遭到拒绝，但在这遭受轻视的撒玛黎雅人领土

内，耶稣却毫无疑问地被接纳了。这些撒玛黎雅人渴望听到耶稣的教导，正如若望福音里所描述的：【耶稣就在那里住了两日，许多人因祂的宣讲而信从了祂。】

在我们的生活中，耶稣不断地在跟我们讲话。当然，我们在福音中聆听祂，但祂以不同的方式来到我们当中。不论人们是暂时与我们相遇，还是长期进入我们的生活，都会与我们建立某种关系。我们日常生活中的一部分就是聆听上主激励我们的话语 - 这话语有机会融入我们的日常生活中，我们对此可以接纳或拒绝。耶稣的话如：【永恒的生命 ... 永生的水泉（活水） ... 面饼是祂的体】就是例证。我们的生活充满了像撒玛黎雅人（对主的话语）说“是”的机会，也有机会像许多“被选之民”那样拒绝天主的话而说“不”字。

2023年3月12日四旬期第三主日弥撒福音反思（若4:5-42）

当人生活在恐惧焦虑当中，耶稣来接触他们，不问他们过去做了什么，只关注他们将来，即永生。这撒玛黎雅妇女在遇到耶稣之前做的事情给我们什么信仰启发？

她曾经有过五个丈夫，都已经去世或与她离婚，而现在正

与一个男人同居。事实上，这女人生命是个象征，死而复活的标记。“不是你的丈夫”象征偶像邪神，或代表撒玛黎雅人对天主的错误崇拜。因此，当妇人与耶稣谈论关于朝拜天主时，“五个丈夫”指的是偶像崇拜；然而，耶稣来为她提供活水，这水象征生命的创造和延续，即永恒。

耶稣将水比作圣神，这圣神提供永生，这生命泉源从被钉十字架的耶稣肋旁流出；生命泉源永远在基督徒里面涌流，维持他们神圣生命；然而，这女人完全误解耶稣的话，因为她心依然充满偶像崇拜。

然后她问耶稣有关活水汲水器的事，顺着下去，耶稣阐明“天主是神”，神是无形无像，如何让人看到？除了耶稣宣讲，最重要的，莫过他的十字架事件。没人见过神的面貌，如今在耶稣的死亡复活中，世人都可以看到、听到以及接触到天主是谁，天主是神，必须用心神和真理朝拜祂，即信、望和爱，而非是金钱、权力或虚荣。

真正朝拜天主与偶像崇拜相反，当这撒玛黎雅妇人相信默西亚要来，耶稣直说：“同你谈话的我就是。”“我是” (egō eimi) 是若望词汇，表明耶稣是天主。这“是”在希腊文法是现在时态，表示天主永恒，在耶稣里，人也是永恒的。因此，继续住在天主所处的地方，就会汲取这活水；天主要我们在哪里，自然会保护我们安全并赐予我们平安，即

使有痛苦；痛苦与平安可以并存；在神修，虽然生活是痛苦的，但基督徒可以怀着平安去活。神修生活越深入，就越容易辨别与天主同住和没有天主的区别，也就越容易远离罪恶。

撒玛黎雅妇人是基督徒生活典范，主要问题出于是是否与天主一起生活，人通常都利用各种管道获得别人认同与肯定，很自然就为讨好别人而活，或身心灵都在虚荣当中，结果远离天主。其实，这些索求永得不到满足，更痛苦的生命因此出现，即上瘾。

然而，每当为光荣天主而工作，天主平安活在人心，并且找到真正安息之所，是活水。

赵必成神父

20230312