

### **Homily of the Third Sunday of Lent:**

Dear brothers and sisters,

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, the readings speak to our deepest thirst. As we journey through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, the readings call us to recognize our own spiritual thirst. We thirst for peace, healing, meaning of life, and hope. We are encouraged not to turn our thirst into bitterness, but into prayer and trust; we are called to move from complaint to faith, and from accusation to surrender, trusting that God is truly among us, even in our difficult times.

The Gospel of this Sunday is about the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. This Gospel is not just about a woman at the well, it is about how God meets human brokenness with Mercy. Jesus chooses to pass through Samaria, a place avoided by others. He goes where others refuse to go, seeking out those who are ignored, misunderstood, or rejected by the society.

The woman comes to the well carrying more than a water jar: she carries a heavy past, unspoken shame, and unanswered questions about God. In this Gospel, when Jesus speaks of living water, He is addressing her deepest thirst, not her physical one. This thirst is for dignity, meaning of life, love, and acceptance.

The turning point of this encounter comes when Jesus reveals that He knows everything that the woman has done. Jesus does not discover her past, He already knows it. Yet He still speaks to her. He still listens. He still offers her living water.

This shows us that God's knowledge of our sins does not push Him away from us; rather it draws Him closer to us in Mercy. For the woman, being fully known does not lead to rejection, but to freedom, because this is the first time when her truth is spoken in love. And this is why she can say, "Come and see a Man who told me everything I have done". What once might have been a source of her shame, becomes the foundation of her witness.

This encounter also reveals something profound about worship and faith. Jesus tells her that true worship is not about place or ritual alone, but about worshiping in spirit and truth. God desires honest hearts, not perfect ones.

Dear brothers and sisters,

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to ask, "What are we thirsty for? Are we afraid to let Jesus see the truth of our lives?" This Gospel assures us that Jesus already knows everything we do, that He already knows our weaknesses, but He still loves us. When we allow Him to see the truth of our lives, we discover that knowing us is not about judgement, but about love. And like the Samaritan woman, after the encounter with Jesus, we are sent forth, no longer hiding, but living as witnesses to the living water, the water that truly satisfies our thirst.

So, this week we are invited to stop hiding, to sit with Jesus at the well, and to trust that His gaze is always one of love.

May God bless us all.