

Give Me that Water

In life, there are a number of things that we can do without. Water, however is not one of them. Here are some interesting facts about water.

75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water. A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.

A cow must drink 4 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of milk.

Families turn on water faucets about 70 times a day.

The United States draws more than 40 billion gallons (151 million liters) of water from the Great Lakes every day—half of which is used for electrical power production.¹²

40 billion hours are spent collecting water in Africa alone.

This year, because we are celebrating a vibrant OCIA program at St. Mary Magdalene, the Gospels for the next couple of weeks for our parish will be taken from the year A cycle of the church.

This weekend we hear the story of the woman at the well. I am sure that many are familiar with the story, but there are many lessons that we can learn from this story. When John writes his Gospel, we have to pay attention to the small details as they have big meaning.

First, John notes that when the woman came, it was noon. It would have been very rare for a woman, by herself to be coming at the hottest part of the day to retrieve water. Most believe that she comes to the well in the middle of the noonday heat so as to avoid the other women of her town for fear of encountering their judgment upon her, for she was a sinful woman. She was looking to avoid others.

As the conversation progressed, Jesus pointed out that she had five husbands in the past and now was involved with another man who was not her husband. Why so many? Could it be that John wanted to show that she was looking for her seventh, which of course in biblical times is the perfect number. That seventh man in her life was pointing to Jesus himself as the perfect man.

Through the entire conversation, even though she was a sinful person, Jesus treated her with dignity and was so open to show mercy and love to the woman. Jesus did not only want to take care of her need of water, He wanted to develop a relationship with her, so that she could see that he was indeed the Messiah.

In one of the last small details, John shared that after her discussion with Jesus, she left her water jar there and went back to tell others what she encountered. Symbolically, this act of

leaving the water jar at the well is a sign that her thirst was quenched by this encounter with Jesus.

How many of us have a thirst for a deeper relationship with the Lord? How many of us are willing to challenge ourselves to satisfy that thirst?

This weekend, many sports fans will be watching on TV, March Madness, the big basketball tournaments from high school to college. I am sure that a Gatorade commercial may pop up a time or two. A couple of years ago, the theme from Gatorade was "Is it in You"? It portrayed athletes drinking the different colored flavors and then sweating out the particular colors of the sports drink that they consumed.

So when we go to drink in a spiritual way, are we seeking that water in which we will never thirst again? If we were to perspire after receiving that water, would that spirit show flowing out of us? When we have partaken of that water, are we excited to go and share it with others like the woman at the well did?

These are all questions that we may want to ponder as we enter into the third week of Lent. I have prepared bottles of water for everyone to take home this weekend. The bottles say this: *I Thirst...For A Deeper Relationship with You.* I would like everyone to take a bottle and if you want, sip on it this week as you spend some time in prayer, spiritual reading, or doing a work of charity. Maybe you could even take the bottle with the special label to work with you and put it on your desk for an evangelizing tool and share with others how Jesus has touched your life and quenched your spiritual thirst.

I hope that this water will refresh you with a deeper relationship with Jesus and that others may see the joy in your heart and ask you, "Please give me some of that water!"

God's Blessings, Deacon Jim