



## Wednesday Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – A single tent

***So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." John 4:5-15***

Yesterday, on my drive to work, I spotted a single tent near a bridge along the busy interstate. I've seen tent cities – communities of people without a home, in tents and makeshift shelters, gathered together. But this one struck me – a single tent. I wondered "What is their story?" Is this a family, a single person, a young person? And then I thought of the outreach workers who are trained to reach out to those experiencing homelessness, to offer supplies, resources, connection, and interaction with a trustworthy adult. I don't think it's a stretch to call this "living water."

In the Gospel of John, this woman, alone at the well, first questions the intentions of Jesus. He replies with a metaphor of "living water" to share the gift of God with her, and he goes on to share that he knows her story. He knows she has had many husbands and, in their exchange, she comes to know him as the Messiah to which he answers, "I am." Jesus knows her story, he engages with her against all social constructs, and she receives this living water.

My prayer is that we all continue to see those around us in need, to listen and hear each other's stories, and work together for the love, care and safety of all.

**Loving God, we pray for street outreach workers, child advocates, police officers, and survivor service programs. Safeguard them as they identify and tend to the needs of youth they encounter. We thank you for these guardians of our youth who walk beside them as they journey toward safety, independence, and healthy relationships with each other and with caring adults. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

*\*This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer in our [Cherish All Children Lenten Prayer Series](#).*

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