

THEME: "GOD THIRSTS!"

The human heart is made with desires. We **thirst** for water, food, shelter, security, freedom, pleasure, happiness and the meaning of life just to list a few things. Perhaps deepest of all is our **thirst to love and be loved.**

- However, like the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel we too often seek to satisfy our thirst for love in ways that don't satisfy.
- No other human can satisfy our heart because it was created by and for God. It has infinite desires and only the Infinite God can quench that thirst. That's why St. Augustine says, "Our hearts are restless, Lord, until they rest in thee." It was a gradual growth in faith that made Augustine aware of this.

We see a similar pattern of Faith growth in the Samaritan woman.

- At first, she sees Jesus simply as a Jewish man. Then the longer she spends time talking with him she gradually perceives him to be a prophet, more than a prophet, the long-awaited Messiah. She gradually becomes convinced that He is "The Fountain of Living water" who can quench her deepest thirst. So satisfied is she that she leaves her water bucket behind. That is symbolic of forsaking any other means of fulfillment. She then goes off to wake the town from their siesta and tell the people of the unbelievable discovery she has made. She becomes the **first Evangelist.**

Remember that story about the American tourist returning from a vacation in Mexico? At the border, the customs agent asked him what he had in that gallon jug. He said, "Water." Upon inspection the agent discovered it was Tequila and the tourist exclaimed, "**Oh my Lord.**

Another Miracle!"

- The great miracle in today's Gospel is something far greater - it is the discovery by the woman of the reality that **God thirsts!**
- Jesus is the one who asks her for a drink! That was far more than a request for water. Jesus longs to be for her and us, our Living Water, our Sustenance, and our Bread of life. He thirsts for our **Faith**, our **Trust**, and our **Love!**
- When from the cross Jesus cried out, "I thirst," that was likewise much more than the desire of human nature. It was also a revelation of Divine thirst. It was the fulfillment of his prediction and desire, "When I am **lifted up, I will draw all things to Myself.**" And from his pierced side flowed rivers of **Living Water** and **Life - giving Blood** - symbols of **Baptism & the Eucharist.**
- Just before his Ascension, Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Think of it - that's a revelation of the heart of God. **God thirsts! He thirsts for our love.** He thirsts so much for us that He left us Himself - His very **Body & Blood** in the **Eucharist.**