



The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman¹

Fr. Luke Sidaros

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Our fallen nature

“In chapter four of the Gospel of St. John, our Lord Jesus Christ meets the Samaritan woman. Christ uncovered this woman’s secrets, which she had tried to hide from everyone; they were never hidden from Him.

In His gentleness and kindness, He said to her, ‘If you desire living water from Me, go get your husband.’ She replied, ‘I do not have a husband.’

He replied, ‘You answered truthfully, for you’ve been married five times, and the man you’re living with is not your husband.’²

Of course, this is human nature. We should not shame this woman, for this is our own nature, our fallen human nature which, because it is far from Christ, will fall continuously.

Is there any limit to sin? No. You could think, ‘I am far from this sinful behaviour; I am on a different level,’ but time proves to us we are all of one nature. We would fall—any one of us—and realise our sin, but there is always worse.

The devil makes the things of the flesh appear more appealing in our eyes.

Proverbs says, “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”³

It is only water, but it is stolen; through the enticement of the devil, any act committed by anyone appears sweet, because the devil is the deceiver.

So, the devil throws out the bait of pleasure for every sin and stumble; it’s like fishing or hunting prey.

Stolen water is sweet, but there is always darkness. And anyone who commits any sin, evil, adultery, or immoral act searches for darkness.

¹ Jn. 4:1-30

² Jn. 4: 16-18

³ Prov. 9:17

These are acts of darkness we try to conceal, but from whom? We try to garnish, to decorate this sin, but it is still a sin.

Even in the heart of man, after a sin is committed it tastes bitter.

The Power of Christ's Salvation

Christ's salvation knows no limits; His arms are open to all sinners. Why did the Bible choose this sinful woman in particular? This woman who had five husbands, and whose companion is not her husband! This is to show that Christ can save the worst of sinners. So, we should never lose hope.

1. Christ said to her, "Give Me a drink."⁴
2. She answered, 'Why are You talking to me? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan.' (The Jews would not deal with the Samaritans). 'How come You're talking to me?'
3. 'If you know the gift of God, and Who is speaking with you, you would ask Me for the living water.'
4. 'What is this living water, water of life? Is it not the same as any other water, like what comes from the well? What is this water You speak of?'
5. 'Something different. If you drink of this water, you will never thirst, and will have no need to come to the well.'
6. 'Give me of this water.'⁵

If someone offered you this living water—which if you drank, you'd never thirst—of course you'd ask them for it.

On Maundy Thursday, Christ said to His disciples, 'Take, drink of it, My blood; living water.' He took the cup, mixed it with water and said, 'Drink of it; you will never thirst.'

'I will give you water which, if you drink, you will never thirst.' Water from a well is for the body; this water is of the world; you will always be thirsty. Measure anything from the world according to this measure: if you drink this water you will thirst. This is the nature of the flesh. But I give you a spring from within—which gushed out from Christ's side—in the chalice that is on the altar to this day, for Christ is eternal.

So, when we receive Communion, we receive living water. I receive it not only through the flesh but through my spiritual senses; this is the living water.

⁴ Jn. 4: 7

⁵ Jn 4: 7-15

We have tried everything of the flesh in this world—food, drink, lust, money, status—but you will never be satisfied.

But this living water will satisfy you from within; you will never thirst. This is Christ’s promise. So, when you drink this living water, the blood of Christ, it will purify your conscience and satisfy your soul—satisfy you forever.

And He gave it to her, and to His children, and will continue giving this living water until His second coming. It is up to us to realise and accept this water.

But if we drink this living water through our physical senses alone, we will receive nothing.

This happens often: I receive the Eucharist and feel I have received nothing.

But if I receive the Eucharist with awareness, repentance, holiness, tears, and humility—emptying myself before God, pleading to receive the living water—then my face will shine, will glow by the end of the Liturgy. Why? Because you will be filled with all fullness; the world and its adornments will mean nothing to me. My soul is satisfied. If the world were offered to me when I am filled with this eternal grace, I would see the world with different eyes; immorality, lust...the world will never satisfy me.

The book of Proverbs says, “A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb.”⁶

Will the world satisfy me? If I receive this living water from Christ’s side by His hands and drink; you will be filled, and you will loathe the world, because you are content, joyful. If someone told you to join them in their worldly affairs to be happy, you would certainly say you do not lack joy. You are full of joy, and lack nothing.⁷

Those who get their fill from the world will remain hungry and thirsty until they are buried because they will never be satisfied.

The world glorifies actors, but when you look at their lives, you will find them hungry indeed.

The glory the world gives them is immense; so many people watch them, follow their news. They call them ‘stars’; but in truth they are neither stars, nor is the world heaven.

Their lives are miserable but the world glorifies them. Even the most famous among them are hungry souls, dead; uprooted.

The Bible attests to this. Ask any of the holy fathers, who “wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”⁸ They were full.

⁶ Prov. 27: 7

⁷ Ps. 34: 10

⁸ Heb. 11: 38

Even those of the world seek after anyone who has the spirit of God until now.

Those of the world have everything—palaces, wealth, money, ventures—but they seek a simple ascetic person asking for anything to satisfy them. Who is asking whom?

One (whose riches are external) asks help from the other who (on the outside) is poor and needy, but from within is very rich.

When Christ gives the living water He gave the Samaritan woman, He will satisfy the soul. And the person who receives this water is content, even if they were suffering. Their soul is not thirsty, not needy.

If you thirst for this world, it will humiliate you; this is the nature of the world.

The devil will make the world appear in a way we may thirst for and desire, but will never give you what you desire, will humiliate you—because sin is humiliation.

When Christ gave the living water to the Samaritan woman and she received it, what happened to her past? A difficult life, five husbands, and the man she is with is not her husband. How did Christ get her out of this pit? He is the Saviour, and His salvation is divinely mighty.

Her conduct changed completely; she became a saint. This woman! All those years of sin, and she became a saint.

Many times we wonder if being a saint is a far-fetched dream. Someone might think about themselves, 'Can you be a saint? That is more of a fantasy.'

But the truth is, when you take up this living water sincerely, you join the company of the saints.

This is the truth. The water of eternal life that flows from Christ's side and is received from His hands...you will be a saint. This is how to get to heaven, for this is the home of the saints.

If you place your lips on the wounded side of Christ and drink this living water that springs from His side, you will be satisfied.

When He gives it to you, your soul will be sober and virtuous. The soul is purified, so all the senses will be purified. The eye will be purified because the soul and thoughts are satisfied and sanctified.

The hand will not reach for sin—in the past, yes—but now, content, why steal?

The gift of Christ is a fact; it is truth, not fiction. This gift of living water is a true gift; He said this of the Holy Spirit: rivers of living water⁹. Where is this thirst?

Examine yourself. If you find yourself thirsty for the world's needs, lusts, and desires, this living water is not yet in you.

If we still desire the lusts of this world and its glory, then we are yet to be filled with the living water.

I advise you take of this living water, drink, and be satisfied, in need of nothing.

Glory be to God forever. Amen.”

⁹ Jn. 7: 37-39; Isa. 44: 3