

The Third Sunday in Lent 2020
John 4

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine
Chase the shades of night away/Turn the darkness into day.
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.
Show those glorious truths to me/Which are only known to Thee

John 4:5–26 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 *There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."* 8 *(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)* 9 *The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)*

In the Name of Jesus.

Yet Jesus, a Jew, had dealings with a Samaritan. And no folk should be sad.

There is none other God! Other than a weary Jewish man sitting at Jacob's well and asking for a drink. Did He ever wet His whistle that day? The text does not say.

What it says is that Jesus was weary at the sixth hour, sitting at a well; and AT THE SAME PLACE, at the same TIME, that He can just blithely draw up God from His well, the Holy Spirit pouring, the Father seeking JUST SUCH ones as worship Him in Spirit and in Truth! And a person with whom the Jews have no dealings about then hears, 'The man speaking to you is the Messiah, God's Anointed. Where This MAN IS, God is; where God is, This Man pledges to be; and no man, or woman, should waste her energy speaking about God and woman as separate now, with any gaps. Even...even when you are thirty.

What a poor way your poor pastor has of speaking!

ESPECIALLY when you are thirsty, and the well is deep and the drawing is hard and monotonous and e...v...e...r...y day and ‘my poor shoulder...!’—

ESPECIALLY THEN, you boast: God can’t be far from here at all! My dear Father; the Spirit Who irrigates what is dry; the Son Whom men can turn into just another idol but really don’t need to!

‘More than that,’ the apostle Paul trumpets: ‘We BOAST in our tribulations!’

Because He asked for a drink at least one more time:

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ¹

Dear saints, these are the challenging works only the Spirit knows: ‘Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth.’ If that is ANY comfort, it must mean that OUR...ORIENTATION...TOWARD the Father—is NOT...UP...TO....US!

So E...V...E...R...Y exposure of our rebellion—idolatry, ignorance of God, adultery, self-therapeutics for our hurts—

We can endure it. Not only that! But move and grow and prove the Gospel True as such endurance produces a stance of faith, an expectant hopefulness that God can NOT ACT WITH US in any way that IS...NOT...LOVE!

His glory is always to have mercy—says the Christ!

Blessed are those whose strength is in Him—the One Who thirsted and did His job and gave up His Spirit.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 19:28–30). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Not just pretty words! But the promise that the Spirit Whose Home is NATURALLY.....ONLY.....WITH One Who loves God...

That Spirit's Home now is with those who are thirsty, and tried, and weary, and SOOOO tempted—as ancient Israel!—to wonder, 'Is The Lord ANYWHERE in our NEIGHBORHOOD?!'

My good lovelies:

There's trials and then there's trials. The Spirit leads us from the one to next and then OUT!

We children of God have the same trials as the unbelievers: what hits US—at the very time and place that we are CERTAIN that WEEEEEE deserve better! Or, at LEAST, we don't deserve _____.....!

Gott sei Dank! Thanks be to God!

The Law....and what is TRUE about God's will and TRUE about US...that all came through aggravated, hacked off Moses.... 'Masah': 'testing!' 'Meribah': 'indictment and quarelling!' 'Mara': 'bitterness.' Such trials even got MOSES banned from the promised land. Thanks...be...to...God!

Because Joshua went right on in! Through the Jordan! And Joshua's namesake: Jesus. From Jordan and Baptism and confessing sins—to a life eagerly expecting Love from God unbounded: all because of One Man; all because of just One Lousy God!

The Spirit—and His Truth and Grace.

Heaven tries you, child, to Love you.

If all goes well, our world will find ANOTHER SHOT to give the kiddies. How many tears are on the way? But all from LOVE!

So the Father sends trials—but He only has Love-Hands. He doesn't even REMEMBER how to raise His hands in anger. It's the nail-scars that distract Him, no doubt.

So: ASK! Ask for the end of toil; while we learn that we toil because HIS Kingdom is NOT of this world—and we don't belong here either! Not forever. Just to reveal Heaven's Love to the world, until That Man comes again, bringing along with Him God.

ADMIT! Something like THIS?!! :

‘Dear Father, I really want to eat more than the doctor and the scale say I should. You made my hunger and you make such yummy foods. If you don't stop me....’ He feeds such a prayer—hears and replies and love.

‘Dear Father, I REALLY want to cuckoo and strut when those who HATE ME show their WEAKNESSES and sins—and let everyone know about it! In fact, YOU have revealed your will and threatened punishment for those who defy you. I AM supposed to learn and repent and do better! But it IS NOT my ‘suppose-ta’: to indict and judge and punish those from whom you sent the Lamb of God, to take away their sins. Take the lead in covering mounds of sins—mine and others! Take the lead in Love.

‘Dear Father, I have been praying for EXTRAS, rather than my daily bread, your innumerable blessings given daily and much. I can match nearly every heavenly GIVING with a worldly unbelieving: “Well, I have EARNED my weekly paycheck! No need to pray that to keep coming! I have scheduled all SORTS of daily routines! Why pray, beg, ask, for what I HAFTA do anyway and can't get out of if I WANTED TO?!!!!!”’

I am convince that God can so hear and love and answer THAT

type of prayer—

My dear ones, I can imagine a day when the Lord throws the TINIEST LITTLE wrench into the machinery of this world—and throws to the wind ALL OUR schedules and plans and assumptions—

Bear with your crazy pastor. Think of God LOVING us so much—the entire WORLD—that He erases EVERYONE’S agenda: every flight, classes at school, church services—I don’t know!!!.... ---Shaking HANDS?!!!

All to give us one last hour to tell the world that God loves them. To tell all women—men too!—that He only chides with patience, His rod of correction falls gently.

Gently, hymns say. And people die. Yeah. He’s on that. God died too when that thirsty, weary Jewish man died. But He’s up and at ‘em again. Your death—from Heaven’s side, is Love! From our side—it’s just a phantom. And there IS...NO...DEATH!

We even get a foretaste of our individual quarantine, coming to each one of us. ‘It is appointed to a man ONCE to die, then the judgment.’

Lemme tell you about your tomb, your grave; your LOVE stopover:

20 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths

lying there,⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

You will never thirst again: so ask for water!

You cannot die: so confess your sins do not be afraid of your God!

You cannot STAY dead: so live and love, and tell the world in the Name of Jesus.

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² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 20:1–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.