

24 February 2008, Lent 3

Exodus 17:1-7. water from rock

Psalm 95. *Venite*: refers to Exodus event

Romans 5:1-11. Since we are justified by faith, endurance produces character, character produces hope, hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

John 4:5-42. Samaritan woman at the well.

Water is a common theme in today's readings

In the OT lesson, in the Venite, in Psalm 1 (Brass only) – poured in Romans

- Common reference in many psalms
- can see why so important in the middle east
- Water of wisdom, Rehydrating the parched soul, Like as the hart
- Water of life: it makes things grow, it is about three quarters of body weight
- can see why so important in biology. dehydration. Le milieu intérieur – le milieu divin
- Refreshing the parts other beers do not reach. It heals (Ezekiel, Psalm 23, Revelation).

And water is what the Gospel is about.

- longest conversation in the Gospels. The woman argues with Jesus.
- encounter between a physically thirsty Christ with the spiritually thirsty Samaritan woman.

Messages

- Christ has a message for all, even those, especially those, who argue with him.
- Christ meets us where we are. The meeting at the well was a "chance encounter" for the woman, but we have the chance to encounter God anytime, anywhere – like the Martini ads.
- Christ accepts us as we are. Jesus didn't come scolding! He didn't even bring up the woman's living situation until late in the conversation. Even his disciples were surprised to see him talking to a woman - a Samaritan woman - in the heat of the day.
- Christ has a gift for anyone who will receive it. "If you knew who I was, you would ask for living water." (Water of life -- the kind of water Mary discovered.)
- The only barrier is not recognising him.
 - Samaritan women recognised him.
 - Mary Mag recognised him.
 - An Inspector Calls.
 - Do we? Where is Christ? Who is Christ?
 - People who quietly get on with their Christian lives, sustaining others.
 - Each of us made a Christ at baptism. Our job, not someone else's. With perseverance in the epistle.

The Samaritan woman told her friends and neighbours, and they believed. How can we get the message across to our friends and neighbours? What is the message that we want to get across, and is it worth the trouble? Presumably we think so.

Now there's another way of looking at the exchange, and that is as a conversation between two parts of ourselves. The God within seeking a conversation with the self-deceiving part of ourselves. Deliver us from evil

The God within begging us for a conversation.