

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

4:1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

4:2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

4:3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

4:5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

4:8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

4:17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

4:18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

4:27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

4:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

4:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

4:33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

4:38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

4:40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

4:41 And many more believed because of his own word;

4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

What then is the great gift that we receive through the coming of the Holy Spirit into our world? We receive what the Savior offered to the Samaritan woman. It is Living Water. But, what is this Living Water? It is the Grace of the Holy Spirit that enables us to live according to the teachings of our Savior. Without this Grace, we are unable to live spiritually. Thus, we cannot achieve salvation.

If we examine our lives honestly, we can't help but realize that we thirst for water, but not the Living Water of our Savior. The water that we thirst for is our seeking satisfaction through the enjoyment of what this world offers. It may be our natural body needs or wants. It is often our sinful passions and desires. But this water can never give us complete and long-lasting fulfillment. After enjoying it, we soon feel a need for it again. We even need it in greater quantity or quality. For example, we eat food to sustain our bodies. Then after a bit of time, hunger returns, and we need to eat again. We may even develop such a passion for food that it will demand from us more and more food, or food of a higher quality in taste. But no matter how much we indulge ourselves, we are never completely satisfied and will need to eat again.

Christ's Living Water satisfies us in a completely different way. It spiritually cleans and refreshes our soul and makes it constantly active in doing good. It enables us to live our lives actively in the fulfillment of Christ's commandments. It empowers us to worship God in spirit and truth. Without it, we are spiritually helpless and cannot be saved.

When God created man, He breathed into him something called the thirst for God. What this means is that we are born with an innate spiritual need. A person will never find true happiness or fulfillment if God is not present in his life and satisfying this need. No matter how much this person will try to find satisfaction through earthly pursuits, he will never find complete fulfillment. He will never be truly content. Only when we reach out to God and ask Him for this Living Water, can we receive the thing that is able to give us true happiness and everlasting fulfillment.

God gives us this Water through the Gospel, through His teachings and commandments. If we accept His teachings and live according to His commandments, we are drinking the Living Water which then gives birth to divine faith in our hearts. Our faith becomes a gushing fountain of Living Water inside of us and enables us to fulfill all of our spiritual needs. The more that we drink of this fountain, the more we satisfy our spiritual needs and are finally led into Kingdom of God. Only in this way can we be saved.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, through His Resurrection our Savior opened for us the gates into His Kingdom. By sending down to us during the Pentecost the Holy Spirit, our Savior is empowering us with spiritual might which enables us to successfully complete our travel. But our Savior does not force us. Respecting our free will, He invites us to travel with Him. But, it is

up to us to decide if this is where we wish to go to spend eternity. May the Grace of God inspire all of us to open our hearts to both want the presence of God in our lives and to strengthen us in our spiritual efforts. By doing this, we allow God to move into our hearts and make them His eternal abode. Then, we will be able to spend eternity together with our Savior in the blessedness that He prepared for those who truly love Him.

With Love in Christ,

Archpriest Serge Kotar