

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,**

**March 12, 2023**

*A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."... The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"... Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, ' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

Two persons are here at a 'deep well'! I don't know who is thirstier, the woman or Jesus? Maybe both wanted to quench their thirst. But how? One has a bucket, and the other hasn't. Will they help each other? When you are very thirsty, and the well is very deep, and you haven't a bucket to draw water, how do you quench your thirst? Take a risk and get into a dialogue with the other. That is what Jesus is doing here. But the woman reminds Jesus that he is a Jew and an enemy of the Samaritans. So it isn't fair for Jesus to ask her for a drink. But Jesus doesn't mind her comment and goes on talking. When their talk goes into a deeper level, Jesus snatches the woman away from the 'well of Jacob' and drops her at the 'well of living water', 'who' is Jesus himself. Now Jesus the beggar becomes the giver of 'water' and the woman the giver becomes the 'thirsty' beggar. Now the woman is begging Jesus for the 'Living Water'. Now she is in big trouble. The well she is at now is deeper than 'Jacob's well' and she doesn't have the right bucket to draw the 'Living water'. Jesus has turned the woman's life upside down. Now she can't but open her life before Jesus. There is a reason why God makes us thirstier and puts us at a 'deeper well' without a 'bucket'. God doesn't make things easier for them whom he loves most. It is God's game. It is how God trains and prepares us to trust him. He wants us to be safe and happy in any situation. You see water before your eyes, but you can't get a single drop without his help. It is God's way of directing us to a safer path. Our success in life depends on how we confront such moments. But God won't send us empty handed. Tough moments speak not about God's absence but of his presence in our lives. Hard times tell us to turn to God for help. Exactly that was what happened at this well with the Samaritan woman who confronted Jesus. Jesus knew what her 'thirst' was. Her thirst was for 'peace'. So Jesus helped her to throw herself into him to quench her thirst. Now this woman will never thirst again. Her life totally changed. She got back her lost joy. We see it in her when she runs back to her people. She brought them all to the true 'well', the Messiah. If we are opened to truth, the truth will make us free. The Samaritan woman who came to well at noon all alone went home with so many friends. Jesus refurbished her life. Jesus made her 'new' and sent her satisfied.

When Jesus asked her for a drink, the Samaritan woman didn't say either yes or no. If she wanted, she could silently walk away from Jesus. But instead she engaged in dialogue with Jesus. She teaches us a great lesson. When we confront God, never walk away; whatever happens, stay there with God. God may do things that upset us in many ways but still stay there asking questions and listening to him. Let God ask us whatever he wants to know. Let him know all about us. He wants to hear everything about us. Then only God can help us. Slowly we will get the confidence to share with God all about us even those secrets that we never want others to know. When God speaks to us, there is always a reason. So I would say, stay there in his presence; let God see us thoroughly.

When we are at the wrong places or with wrong persons, God may come to us pretending that he is thirsty and would like to have a drink with us. But be sure he is there to tell us to walk away from there or from that person. That is God's loving gesture of warning. Let us lean on God; 'let him direct our paths'.

When we hit the lowest point in our life, our God will come to lift us to the highest highs. Difficult times are moments of insight. They make us think about God. They ask us to take a different turn in life. If we are with our God, every moment is holy; there are no unholy moments.

My love and God's blessings,  
Father Sebastian Earthedath, MST