

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent
Cycle A

In our Gospel today we see the Samaritan woman arrive at Jacob's well at midday. Why midday? Perhaps because she wanted to avoid the eyes of the crowd, to go unnoticed, or to protect herself from conversation. But God has a plan that cannot be rushed. Jesus meets her there, at the exact moment, in the exact place of her vulnerability. He does not hurry her. He does not demand immediate action. He simply sits beside her, inviting dialogue and encounter.

The encounter begins quietly: Jesus asks for a drink, and in response, a deeper conversation unfolds. Slowly, step by step, He opens her heart to recognize that the water He offers is unlike any she has ever known. She does not receive instant gratification or dramatic transformation. Instead, she is invited into a sacred pause, a stillness where God's grace can seep into the cracks of her heart.

The Gospel reminds us that sometimes God works silently, faithfully, and patiently. The living water does not rush. The transformation does not come in haste. It comes in the patient unfolding of trust. Many of us live in constant hurry – hurrying through prayer, rushing through Mass, scanning the Word of God without lingering in its depth. Our lives often resemble the woman at the well in

her attempt to avoid scrutiny, to protect herself, or simply to move past discomfort.

Yet Lent calls us to pause, to sit beside the well, to allow Christ's presence to fill us quietly, faithfully, and completely. Sitting beside the well is an act of trust. It means acknowledging that we cannot control everything in our lives. It means letting go of the illusion that our efforts alone will quench our thirst. It means choosing stillness over busyness, listening over doing, presence over performance. In that stillness, God prepares our hearts to drink deeply, to encounter His grace, and to be renewed from within.

This sacred pause can feel uncomfortable at first. We may feel impatient, restless, or fearful that nothing is happening. Yet the Gospel shows us that the well is never empty. The Living Water flows constantly, and God's timing is perfect. The longer we sit, the more our hearts learn to trust, and the more we discover that true peace and satisfaction cannot be hurried.

Spiritually, this teaches us an essential principle: Transformation often begins with patience. The deeper our thirst, the more urgent we feel our need. But God invites us into a rhythm of encounter and reception. Like the Samaritan woman, we are called to be present, to linger, and to let the encounter unfold naturally. In that quiet trust, our souls are refreshed. Our hearts are aligned with God's purpose. And slowly, our lives begin to overflow with mercy, compassion, and love.

This Lent, let us learn to sit beside the Well. Let us linger in His presence without rushing. Let us trust that Christ's Living Water will fill every empty part of our hearts, in His time, in His way. The well is always ready. The grace is always faithful. We only need to pause, to remain still, and to drink.

True transformation begins in patient stillness. So, sit beside the Well... trust His timing... and let the Living Water renew your heart.