Woman at the Well

MEDITATION
“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.’”

“The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.” CCC #2560

“Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Although man can forget God or reject him, He never ceases to call every man to seek him, so as to find life and happiness. But this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, ‘an upright heart,’ as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God. ‘Despite everything, man, though but a small part of your creation, wants to praise you. You yourself encourage him to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.’” CCC #30

When have you felt God’s presence? Did you praise God?
How much of the time do you forget or reject God?
How does God react to your rejection?

“Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion.” CCC #1422

Do you often consider how much God longs for you?
Have you ever known that someone prayed for you? How did it feel to know that someone cared about you?
“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water…”

It is the presence of Jesus within us, and only the presence of Jesus within us, that fills us and enables us to bear fruit that will last. His life is available to us to the extent that we live without sin. Mortal sin ruptures are relationship to God and cuts us off completely from Divine Life, both now and for eternity. Venial sin damages our relationship with God and blinds us to the life offered us, rendering us incapable of living in freedom: even venial sin, committed casually and habitually, seriously hinders our ability to live from the eternal spring welling up within us.

Have you ever felt the distance between yourself and God – and wanted to be reconciled?

When have you yearned to restore a broken relationship in your life? What did this restoration require of you?

Are you casual about sin – thinking sin is of little consequence? OR “Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God’s children?”

“The woman left her water jar and went into the town…”

“It is called the sacrament of Reconciliation, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: ‘Be reconciled to God.’ He who lives by God’s merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord’s call: ‘Go; first be reconciled to your brother.’”

CCC #1442

Have you ever felt God’s love despite a serious failing or rejection of God on your part?

How did this knowledge of God’s love and mercy change you, free you?

Can you see how your sin hurts the Church in its mission of reconciling the world in Christ? Does this bother you?
“Come and see a man who told me everything I have done.”

“It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure of confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a ‘confession’—acknowledgment and praise—of the holiness of God and his mercy toward sinful man. CCC #1424

Have you imagined that you could hide your sins from God?
Is it a relief just to admit your failings, your rejection of God?
Have you ever been relieved that someone else helped you see your faults?
Can you see in your “confession” not only your own sin, but also how God has been present in your life, loving and guiding you all along—the gift of God’s life welling up within you?

“Could he possibly be the Messiah? ...Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified…”

Living as disciples of Jesus, we are called to bear fruit in bringing others to Him. We can be effective witnesses only if we first accept the salvation offered us in Christ. Our reconciliation not only brings us peace and restored relationship to God in Christ, it helps the whole world find its salvation in Christ as well.

What captures most of your attention, your time, your resources?
In these things you have placed your hope. To what extent do you place your hope in God?
How often/how much and in what ways do you give witness to Christ?
The Woman at the Well

“They went out of the town and came to him. …When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.”

“The Gospels recount many scenes of people searching for Jesus and finding him. …The encounter with Jesus always involves a call, the call may be a great one or a small one, but it is always there. The encounter may happen at any time, and it is pure gratuity, totally unmerited. Sometimes the encounter must be sought out. …His invitation can be rejected or half-heartedly accepted. When it is rejected, pain pierces the heart of Christ.

…The Lord himself recommends that we be vigilantly on the lookout for this encounter. Jesus searches for me. He does not view us as part of a crowd but seeks us out one by one, searching our hearts. Vigilance means being receptive to the wisdom that will help us discern Jesus and truly find him. …Our vigilance is the prayerful attitude that makes us want to keep him with us when he seems to want to ‘continue on his way.’

Pope Francis in Open Mind, Faithful Heart

How have you invited Jesus to STAY WITH you?
What forms of prayer might help in this, inviting Jesus to stay?

“Many more began to believe in him because of his word…we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, like the other Sacraments of the Church, is a privileged place of encounter with God.

“Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit. By receiving more frequently through this sacrament the gift of the Father’s mercy, we are spurred to be merciful as he is merciful. CCC#1458

How might a habit of regular Confession change you?
Is there anywhere else you could find the salvation offered you in this Sacrament?