

HOPING

The voice of God echoes in the depths of the human heart

(Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 16)

We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word we turn again towards the Lord

1. What do you want to say to the Lord about what you have heard?
2. What hope or prayer has this text stirred in your heart?
3. What word about your life – be it a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition – do you now bring to the Lord.

Closing Prayer: We gather our prayer together as we say, Our Father...



Prepared by: Jane Mellett (Dublin) • Maureen Kelly & Marie McNamara (Killaloe) • Séamus O'Connell & Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) Philip Carder (Armagh)

Hearing Happening Hoping

Meeting God in the Word
Lent 2017

Week 3 ~ The Woman At The Well (John 4)



Lord, open our hearts as we read your word...

Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from the journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'... The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet... 'I know that Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ—when he comes, he will show us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I AM [he]-the one speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' So the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening! You have the words of eternal life!

1. Read this story a first time. What part of the story did you like best?

2. We read the text a second time; we see how the woman changes in meeting Jesus. How does she change as Jesus and herself converse?

3. As we read the text a third time, we turn towards Jesus. How does Jesus change as the story unfolds?



HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

1. *"There came a woman of Samaria ..."*

When have we been changed by a "chance" encounter with someone?



2. *"Give me this water ... that I may not thirst ...!"*

Where do people turn to address their deepest longings and desires?

3. *"If you knew the gift of God ..."*

Who has opened our eyes to the gift of God? Who has said something life-giving to you?