

“Give me a drink.”

We need to ask ourselves an important question: Are we spiritually dehydrated?

I’ve run into a few real-life cases of dehydration, and I’ve noticed that more often than not, the way many people find themselves in that situation is simply that they don’t notice when it happens.

They get so distracted by whatever they’re doing that they forget to take care of themselves, drink enough water, and keep cool, or it could sneak up on them as a side effect of an illness.

The theme of water, and the life-giving nourishment that it provides, runs throughout the Scriptures of this third weekend of Lent. The Israelites come to Moses grumbling and complaining, says Exodus, “in their thirst for water.”

On the surface, this was a practical problem - but their underlying struggle came from losing their life-giving trust in God, even after he’d shown them his power by leading them out of Egypt, and out of slavery.

For the Samaritan woman, she simply didn’t realize what was right in front of her, not until Jesus opened her eyes to his power. In fact, she thought she was going to be the one to give him nourishment.

So many Christians end up feeling spiritually dried-up in these kinds of ways. When we look at God and consider his invitation to holiness, all we can see is the stuff we’re expected to give up and give to Him.

‘I have to give up my time to show up on Sunday, when I really just want some rest.’ ‘I have to give money to the Church - and who knows what they’re spending it on?’ ‘I have to give my energy to all these ministries that need all these volunteers. Why do I bother?’

That’s the voice of divine dehydration. Like that woman of Samaria, we are standing right in front of the Lord, and he is offering us a drink, offering us the refreshment and the consolation of his love, and we don’t even see it.

This Lent, during this beautiful time of purification and renewal, we need to pray for the refreshment of the Spirit’s living water, and its life-giving indwelling through our shared baptism, that joins us in a communion of love with one another, and to the inner life of the Trinity itself.

And then, once our journey is concluded, we too will be refreshed to hand on that Good News of what, and who, we have found:

“Come, see a man who is truly the savior of the world.”

Almighty God,

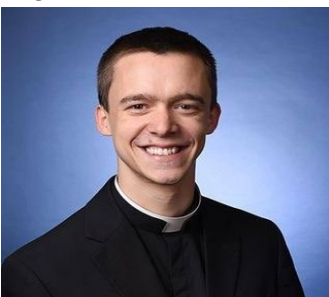
You sent your Son to be our Savior.

Grant that we, who like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water, may turn to you as we hear your word and acknowledge the sins and weakness that weigh us down.

Protect us from the pride that impels us to rely only on ourselves, and grant us abiding trust in your love and mercy, that we may be refreshed to seek you now and every day of our lives.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord,

Amen



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