

Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ

March 15, 2020

Old Testament Reading; Exodus 17: 1-7

Responsive Reading; Psalm 95

Epistle Reading; Romans 5: 1-11

Gospel Reading; John 4: 5-42

Sermon Title: DRY MOUTH?

By Rev. Jim Gardner

Summary: Sometimes looking for the good life leaves you thirsting for something better.

“Water, water everywhere, and all the boards do shrink. Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink.”

Well our scriptures were not exactly The Wreck of The Hesperus but water is a dominant theme. The Hebrews wanted water. The Psalm refers to the aforesaid problem. The woman at the well wanted water and the Epistle expounds on that fact.

When I am at exercise class with a bunch of senior citizens our medicine intake leaves most of us with a noticeable case of Dry Mouth. Now these meds are good for us and may be directly

responsible for us to be healthy enough to be at that exercise class to begin with. We need them but they leave us thirsty.

A lot of the things we need in life leave us thirsty. Water is not a bad thing unless you do not have any. That was the problem facing the Hebrews in the wilderness. When they griped about it, Moses was instructed to take them to a place called Horeb. Horeb means “the desolate place”. Moses strikes the rock and water pours forth for the people and animals to drink. The implied theme is not that God gave them a miracle, it is that they complained about the care they were receiving from God and his servant Moses.

Many of us read this and feel that God is not being fair. Of course, the people should complain if they think they are going to die of thirst [or the Caronia Virus]. Hey! Everybody knows that the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Right?

It is not that they should not have appealed to God in time of need, it is how they did it. It is fine to say, “Hey God, we really need some water and we can’t find it on our own.” As opposed to saying to Moses and everybody that would listen, “Is the Lord among us or not?” These people saw God part the waters and bring them out of bondage in Egypt. These people saw the plagues and the Passover of the angel of death that should have proven to them that God was holding them in special

esteem. They should have been the last ones to doubt God, but that is just what they did.

In our gospel lesson Jesus stops at Jacob's well and asks a Samaritan woman for a drink of water.

This simple request is deeper than the well at which it was made. Jesus opens up dialog between a Jew and a Samaritan, something that we all should learn from. Jesus opens up an opportunity for this woman locked in a sinful life style to turn her life around and also become an effective evangelist for Jesus. She then brings several residents of Samaria to accepting Jesus as the true Messiah or Christ. Funny, demons and non-Jews are the first ones to see Jesus for what he really is.

Today many of us are doing the same thing that the woman at the well was doing. We are trying to survive and to thrive in our world. We may be looking for good things; We want an higher education, we want a career, we want a family, we want insurance, a 401k, a good means of transportation, we want vacations and a good retirement plan and clothes and other things that make us able to blend into our society seamlessly.

These are not bad things to want, but to put them before our relationship with God is putting the cart before the horse.

Solomon asked God for wisdom and he got it. He got worldly wisdom that left him rich and powerful and empty. In

Ecclesiastes Solomon looks back at his life and says, “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”

In Galatians Paul says, “Be guided by the spirit. And the fruit of the spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and self-control.” And in Matthew, Jesus says, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

To the woman at the well Jesus says, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water” Jesus is the living water. “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

We can live with dry mouth but we cannot truly live with dry soul. For dry mouth we can drink water and or use dry mouth, mouth wash. For dry soul we need the water that Jesus will give us, the water of life, so we can live life and live life abundantly,

both now and for eternity. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.

Drink up, and never thirst again.

Hallelujah and Amen