*From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said: “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them: “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said: “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord: “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses: “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying: “Is the Lord among us or not?”* Exodus 17:1-7

*So He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by His 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.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him: “How is it that You, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common 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 with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” 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 gushing 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. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but You say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her: “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Him: “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her: “I am He, the one who is speaking to you.” Then 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! He cannot be the Messiah, can He?” They left the city and were on their way to Him. Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony: “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. They said to the woman: “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”* John 4:5-29, 39-42

 *A college professor shocked his students when he said in a class that he will prove there was no God.*

 *Addressing the ceiling he shouted: "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!" The room fell silent. You could have heard a pin fall.*

 *After ten minutes he yell again: "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting."*

 *His count-down got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine - just released from active duty and newly registered in the class - walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face, and sent him tumbling from his platform. The professor was out cold!*

 *At first, the students were shocked. The young Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silent. The class fell silent...waiting.*

 *When the professor regained his senses and could speak, he looked at the young Marine and asked: "What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?"*

 *"God was busy. He sent me" – the young Marine answered.*

Quench the Thirst

1. Water is a necessary element to sustain life and consequently, water is not a luxury but a necessity of life. As a species, in the chemical analysis, we are made of nearly 80% of water and the greatest danger we face in life is not to be able to replenishing water in our body. At the same time, some diseases, although spread by the contaminated water, threaten people’s life not because of the virus or the bacteria is deadly, but because they cause inability of our body to keep water in, leading to dehydration which in effect results in death. Water is indeed a matter of life and death.

2. While sitting at the well, known as *“the well of Jacob,”* Jesus has a conversation with a woman who came to the well to get water for home. While we might wonder why He asked that woman for water, for even if we consider a simple reason, He was thirsty, why couldn’t He Himself to get some water from the well? It seems to me there is much more in His conversation with that Samaritan woman than a simple thirst. For starters, it was quite unusual for a Jew to talk freely with a Samaritan and even more so with a woman. Yet, Jesus does it. As I see it, this encounter serves as a basis for a lesson for all of us to learn from. Jesus is not concerned with our background, and He doesn’t care what social status we might have, He doesn’t care what color, gender, or age we are. He looks at us as we are and who we are, and He loves us, all of us, just as we are.

3. He comes to those who need Him. He knows what that Samaritan woman needed, so He tells 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.”* His words clearly indicate that we need to ask Him, and He will help us. He never did or would do anything against our will. He will respond to our requests, but we must ask first. How often is it though that we are unaware of what we truly need, just as this woman did at first. She was so preoccupied with her immediate needs, to have water in home for a day, to satisfy her immediate and temporary needs. Jesus however speaks about something else. He looks forward and He sees the bigger picture.

4. When we are ready to ask, we usually ask for something we want, but Jesus wants to give us something that we need, and in His response He offers the woman more then she would ask for. When we ask, we usually ask for something to satisfy us for a day, but Jesus wants to give us something that will last a life time. Remember Peter and John healing the crippled man at the Temple’s gate? The crippled man asked for money to survive for a day, but instead, he received a whole new life. We often do not know what we are asking for, but Jesus knows even before we ask. In His knowledge of a human heart, He gives us what will help us, and provides us with a lifelong satisfaction. *“The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”* He promises us a constant, never-ending help, and guidance, like the water from the eternally flowing spring.

5. This is the issue worth considering by everyone. The Samaritan woman was made aware of the opportunity and the possibility of restoration. Her life was filled with constant fear of becoming thirsty and she would go the well of Jacob, to replenish daily the water reservoir in her home. Today, most if not all of us have an indoor plumbing so we do not need to worry about the lack of water, unless the main breaks and the water is not delivered to the house or, if we have a cistern, the cistern runs dry. Some people do not realize that separating themselves from God, they indeed separate themselves from the *“live giving water”* of Christ’s presence and blessing. When life becomes difficult, when problems we encounter seem to be overwhelming, we must remember that life is not necessarily a road to pleasure only, but it is also a road to success or failure. With Christ on our side, we need not to fear that failure anymore.

6. The woman at the well was presented with the opportunity. This opportunity knocks to our doors also. When the well of our life runs dry and when life becomes unbearable, we must remember those who were here before us. We often believe that nobody knows our problems better than we do yet, others have experienced similar distresses and were able to carry them. Why? Because as in this old spiritual we sing: *“Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen…nobody knows but Jesus.”* He does know them all indeed.The road of life we walk is not the lonely road. It is the road where others walked, are still walking or will walk. We are not alone in our distresses and when we face life’s difficulties. It is important, imperative even, to know that when we find ourselves in a distress, we have Someone to turn to and He will offer us help. Even when we see others, those who do not seem to face any problems and appear happy and fortunate, we must ask this important question: *“is this really true? are they indeed happy?”*

7. As it turns out, happiness is not measured by wealth; happiness is not even measured by people’s popularity and social acceptance and importance. The Bible clearly teaches that. Apostle Paul was not a rich man. He often hardly knew what would happen to him the next day and where he would eat or sleep. But he is the greatest example of a happy man. He is the one who calls us to rejoice always and in everything. Not an easy task. Another example is Jesus Himself. He never owned anything but His cloak. He only had a few followers and even they in the moment of distress left and denied Him. On the contrary, He had many powerful enemies. But in the end it was also Jesus who was victorious and happy. It was He who called us: *“not to store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven…”* (Mt. 6:19-20)

8. When the well dries up and when the difficulties enter our lives let us hear Jesus as He prays in the Gethsemane: *“Father, may this cup be taken from me.”* Even our Lord experienced distress and in His prayer we see that in such a difficult moment He seems unhappy and disturbed. Yet soon afterwards He concludes His plea: *“Yet not what I want but what You want,”* let be. Life is already complicated, why try to complicate it even more? Does bitterness ever brought any solution to any problem? Who are we to be angry with when the difficulties in life strike? Should we be angry with others, with God or with ourselves? The right answer is found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Through His conversation with the Samaritan woman Jesus assures her and all those who come to Him and search for help, that He will offer solution and the opportunity to heal, to cope with the distress. He tells us that with Him we will get the opportunity to reach the eternal happiness where: *“God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things passed away.* “(Rev. 21:4) This is what Jesus promised to the woman at the well of Jacob and this is also what He promises us today.