

March 19, 2017

John 4:5-42

Today's Gospel reading from John reminds us that God may choose to encounter us in unexpected places and in unexpected people over the course of our Lenten journeys. The Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus at the well certainly did not expect to meet the Messiah that day. She was going about her daily tasks. As a woman and as a Samaritan, she surely expected to experience nothing but disdain from the Galilean who had perched himself near the well. And John's account suggests she may have also been burdened by guilt for the way she had led her life. No, the Samaritan woman did not expect to encounter the Messiah that afternoon.

There's even more to this story, however. In revealing himself as the "living water" and in responding, "I am" to the woman's inquiry, Jesus revealed so much more. He revealed himself as God. The woman was clearly touched to her core by this. Abandoning the routine of her everyday life, she proceeded to announce this revelation to anyone who would listen.

As we continue on our Lenten journeys, we would do well to attend to the lesson of the woman at the well. We would do well to remain open to surprises that God may have in store for us. We would do well to attend to God's presence in our everyday lives.

**Reflection questions:**

Am I sufficiently open to surprises that God may have in store for me this Lenten season?

Have I recognized that I might be God's "surprise" in someone else's life, a surprise that holds the potential to bring them closer to God?

*Reflection by Deacon Daniel Lowery, St. Mary in Crown Point.*