

Lent Devotion for 19 March 2017

"My Song Is Love Unknown" words by

Samuel Crossman

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's
love to me, love to the loveless
shown, that they might lovely be. O
who am I, that for my sake my God
should take frail flesh and die? My
God should take frail flesh and die?*



John 4:7-15, 25-26

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." 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."

An encounter with Jesus at a well happened when Jesus took a different path with the disciples, this time they journeyed through Samaritan land... around midday, Jesus stopped at Jacob's well, hot, tired, and thirsty. As the disciples had continued into the village to find food, Jesus asked the woman for a drink. She must have been stunned that a Jewish man was talking to her and that he asked for a drink. As their conversation progressed, her life was changed, in ways she could not know.

She asked questions. She knew her scriptures. She was convicted by the encounter. She was brave and courageous. She responded to the conversation by returning to her village and telling the people about Jesus, could he be the Messiah? The one for whom they too were waiting?

Today in the midst of challenges, can we be bold enough to journey with Jesus? Do we have eyes to see

and ears to hear the deeper message?

Jesus is compassion; he did not let cultural norms restrict him from talking to the woman.

Jesus is love; he showed love and respect to the woman.

Jesus welcomed her on the journey in faith, to know that our relationship with God is more than a time and a place, but a lifetime.

When the world is placing walls, wars, and obstacles in the path, what can we do? From places of oppression, occupation and injustice in the world, we, like the woman at the well, do have a voice, because of the encounter. We can seek the living water. We are not called to be silent to the truth, but to speak the truth in spirit and in love.

Let us pray: *Lord, we thank you for being available to all of humanity. Help us to work together in sharing your message of love in spirit and in truth. May we be transformed in our*

*journey as we seek your living water.
Amen.*

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Picture credit: Jacob's well picture taken by
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