

Sermon Starter – God’s Love Quenches Thirst

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Thirst and water: human need and God’s provisions. The invitation of the Lenten season is to recognize our deep personal and communal needs, and God’s power to restore us. All the texts for this Sunday speak to these themes.

Rather than simply read the story, inhabit the thirst of the community camping in the desert, unsure of their next source of water. In their time of desperate thirst and vulnerability, it is hard to believe that God is with them. But in the familiar pattern, God patiently gives them what they need. More than that, God is keeping the promise to sustain and care for them. This is a story of grace.

Likewise, dwell in the thirst of the Samaritan woman. What insecurities parch her? What does she have to protect? How have her life and energies been compromised? What happens to her defenses at Jesus’ request for a drink and his willingness to talk with her? As he breaks the cultural rules, the way is broken open for God’s way of love that excludes no one. Her hope grows, and this conversation becomes like a drenching rain for her parched soul. So satisfying is this interaction that she tells everyone she knows, and they come to meet Jesus for themselves.

Where is your thirst leading this Lent? What is your community thirsting for? Depleted, withered cells and souls cry for water. God hears our deepest cries. God’s quenching love brings us life.

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