

Intro Mar 15

In Exodus, the Israelites are thirsting in the Sinai Desert; they want **WATER**. Moses strikes the **rock** and life-giving **WATER** flows from it, which sustains the people for their journey through the Sinai DESERT on their way to the Promised Land.

The PSALM sings to *the rock of our salvation*—of our being saved, in this hard dessert of life. Sing to the LORD who sustains us even **when we complain** and don't understand.

Paul tells the ROMANS: *We have this grace through which we have hope of the glory of God.* Why? Because . . . *while we were still sinners Christ died for us.* That is, like the Israelites in the dessert, we had not yet trusted that God would deliver for us. He did it when we didn't deserve it.

The GOSPEL is all about **WATER**. It is also about those who are given the **WATER**, yet **don't** seem to **deserve it**. But whoever looks for and asks for **WATER** will be given even more than they could imagine. They will be given the **LIVING WATER** (starting with Baptism) of Eternal Life.

You don't have to be "good enough" to get it. In fact, the *NOT-Good-Enough* are those who DO get it. Why? Because they know they NEED IT. They need God.

Here are beautiful images of XT being Crucified (The Stations) and His LIVING WATER from a site in GROOM, TX. It is a magnificent Stations of the Cross erected and done by an artist who did all the statues for free. Part of **Crossministries**, a non-denominational ministry. Google it.

Groom, TX 4 min
1 Shows a copy of the **Shroud of Turin** at 3:50 near the end
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wm27hbQqxU>

Can watching
YouTube
be Praying??

2***Panorama of Groom 4 min
showing the 3 thieves Luke 23:32-43
Start at 1:50, if you want
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW26YXfLi0k>

3 **LIVING WATER** part starts at 1:30
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4tFdb_Ju-s 2:30

4 Stations of the Cross w bible captions—and at end a tomb and **LIVING WATER**
start at 7 min, if you want, **LIVING WATER starts @10 min**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcOCIztQdeI> 11:40

***Ben Hur, the movie w Charlton Heston, Via Dolorosa showing 2 thieves 2:45
and LIVING WATER + next vid of Living Water.##

Simon carries cross **Mark 15:21** adds "father of Rufus and Alexander."
Matthew 27:32
Luke 23:26
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaj11z6in6Q>

Note how the MUSIC adds to the drama;
Acting with NO words!

SUPER ### Ben Hur as a slave is given **LIVING WATER**—by XT! Called by many the most powerful cinema scene ever. **WE never see the FACE** of XT. Both Ben HUR and the Centurion feel Grace from Xt. Watch the emotions cross the Centurion's face: anger, fear, confusion, finally shame. Tradition names him Longinus, whose spear pierced Xt's side.

##<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV1f7OiiTJE> 4:30



From GROOM TX

LIVING WATER

flowing from

XT



Called

DIVINE MERCY
FOUNTAIN

This is a short 40 sec video of the Fountain of Divine Mercy at Groom TX
makes these pictures come alive and shows the WATER is LIVING!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6ORjGiheTI>

For more info google: **Martin Wells sculptor Amarillo.**
Martin Wells who did the statues died. (2008)

BACK-STORY of the **Gospel**

key word **IRONY**

used by JOHN a lot

First this scene is at a **well**, which is often dry, given by Jacob to his son Joseph.
Jesus is a Source of **LIVING WATER** never dry given by God to everyone

The Samaritan Woman comes at NOON. All the women come from town together in the AM before it is hot and to TALK!

So she is not only a Samaritan, she is ostracized from the village community. Double dirt. Hardly one to be chosen who will ‘recognize’ XT as the Messiah. **God always picks the least likely.**

Jewish Men **never** talk to unfamiliar WOMEN, certainly not a ‘foreigner, outcast, and a Samaritan’. John, in his Gospel uses a lot of IRONY. That is, he puts words into the LEAST likely person’s mouth.

[Example: He has Pilate say: “YOU are the Christ?” as a Question.

And Jesus answers, making it a STATEMENT: “YOU say it.”]

Jesus asks the Woman for a drink. Then he says: If you knew me, who I am, you would ask me for a drink? More irony. She DOES eventually **know** who he is!

Now the Water in the WELL is not ‘living’, not moving, not alive. It is stuck in a well and often gets muddy and dank. It can taste awful.

LIVING WATER means *moving* water. Sweet, clear, and clean tasting.

More Irony, the Samaritan Woman says: Then give me that **WATER**. [without knowing exactly what Jesus means.] SHE is eager for whatever Jesus has to offer, period. Key: is eager/open

The little digression about her husband gives us some idea of why she is ostracized in the village. But HER response is “YOU are a Prophet.” (Samaritans worshiped on Mt Gerizim, not Jerusalem. There are today less than 1,000 Samaritans.)

Irony: SHE, a SAMARITAN, recognizes XT is a prophet. John’s message: ANYONE, even a Samaritan—or Roman Centurion—could recognize the CHRIST-Messiah in Jesus of Nazareth.

XT responds even Jerusalem won’t be the ONLY place to worship God, provided it is done in Spirit and Truth. Maybe not even in the Synagogue, which will take the place of the destroyed Temple.

The Samaritan Woman gives us the SIGNS of the Messiah—which XT had already given her. She knows and SEES them before her eyes. The Jews didn’t recognize the signs of the Messiah. [Remember John wrote his Gospel AFTER the Xtians were kicked out of the synagogues.]

. . . the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.”

*Jesus said to her, “I am **he**, the one speaking with you.”*

I am he, is **not** the best translation in my opinion. I can’t figure out why the scholars said it this way adding **he**. BOTH the GREEK and St. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate have words which say only: “**I AM**, who speaks with you”. This more clearly is what John cleverly implies—XT is GOD!

Why does this say XT is GOD?

1st the Samaritans expected the Messiah to be a **new MOSES**, not a new David.

2nd the words **I AM** were the words Yahweh used when he gave **HIS NAME to Moses** on Sinai! I hope you can appreciate what I am saying here. It is subtle, but more powerful.

More irony, the Woman then becomes a WITNESS for XT. But women cannot be witnesses in Roman courts, Greek or Jewish courts. IF a Samaritan and a woman can witness to XT. . . . ?

Enter the disciples trying to make sense of it all. They CAN’T figure it out.

At 80 I can’t figure God out either at times.