

Third Sunday of Lent – Homily – 03-15-2020

In the gospel today Jesus told the woman at the well that he was thirsty and asked her for a drink.

The woman reminded Jesus that Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.

Of course Jesus was well aware of this. But that wasn't all he was aware of. He also knew that this woman was a great sinner.

And yet none of this stopped him.

I'm sure Jesus was actually thirsty, it was noon in a desert climate and I always take him at his word, but in reality he was saying something so much more.

He was saying to her, "I am thirsting for your love to the point of death in spite of your sinfulness."

And he said the same to us two thousand years ago.

When Jesus mounted the cross and offered his life for ours it was because he was thirsting for our love to the point of death.

One of his very last words before he died was, "I thirst." And he knew very well that we are all sinners too.

That was the whole point. As Saint Paul said to the Romans, “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”

So if we are loved this much in spite of our sinfulness what do any of us have to fear?

If we are striving to live every day in God’s love and that’s the key – striving to live every day in God’s love – then no matter what may come our way we should be more than equipped to handle it.

However, by the looks of things there are a lot of people who are not very confident in God’s love.

Look at all the people in a virtual panic over the Corona Virus – fighting over toilet paper and hand sanitizer – in overcrowded stores where it seems to me if they are going to encounter someone infected with the virus than that store might just be the very place.

It really doesn’t make any sense.

In many ways it implies a lack of trust in God’s love for us. Let’s not let that be us and if it was then it’s like any other weakness we possess. Just give it to the Lord and move on.

Jesus is thirsting for our love and we need to trust that he knows what is best for us no matter what may come our way.