

I'll bet most husbands will agree with me that one of the hardest things to say to your wife is, "youhh, honey, you were right."...Especially when it has something to do with cars...Now, I'm no Mr. Goodwrench, but my wife will tell you that I know a lot more about cars than she does, though there h are times wen it doesn't seem that way....Like the time I was driving & she looked over at the dashboard on my side & warned me , "You better stop & get gas.. you're running on empty."...Now, here is this woman, who has put gas in her car maybe twice in her life, telling me how to take care of my car,... so I had to show off my car savvy..."Don't worry, when the needle is on E,...it's just a warning. There's still a couple of gallons in the tank."...After dropping her off, I went on an errand...& you know wut happened , don't you?...The next time we spoke was by phone; "youh, honey, you were right...I'm stuck in a parking lot, out of gas. Can you pick me up?"...Yup, Mrs. Goodwrench was right,...I **had** been running on empty.

There are times when our lives are running on empty,..& we ignore God warning us that if we don't fuel up, we will get stuck – like a car without gas, unable to get back on the road God wants us be on...For us, though, the fuel isn't gasoline...It is the Living Water Jesus offers to us, the Living Water He offered to the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel,...the only water that can satisfy the spiritual thirsts, the spiritual longings of the human soul.

....Every human soul thirsts for the same things...to be loved....to be accepted....to be admired We thirst for success & happinessWe thirst for peace, We thirst for meaning & purpose in our life... We want our life to count for something.

We get in trouble when we try to satisfy these thirsts, by drinking what the world serves up...by looking in all the wrong places...looking to money & possessions to quench our thirsts, looking to unhealthy relationships,...looking to drugs or alcohol or sex...& none of these ever really work...They might quench our thirsts for a while, but it won't last; they are never enough. ...After a while, we'll be thirsty again...But, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman," whoever drinks of the living water that I give will never thirst again."...

When the woman came to the well that day, her life was way off kilter...We're told she had had five husbands & was living with a man that wasn't her husband. She was looking for something to fill her...She was looking to be loved,...to be important to someone...& this desire had led her into the arms of all these men...& still left her unfulfilled... She was living an empty life....She was thirsty for meaning in her life,...& so Jesus made her an offer. He didn't offer her natural water for her physical thirst;...He offered her "living water" for her spiritual thirst:... "The water that I give will become in you a spring welling up to eternal life."...When she asked Jesus to give her this water,...her eyes were opened to who He really was,...& she immediately ran off into the town to tell the people, "Could He possibly be the Christ?"...& because of her testimony, many of the people came to believe in Jesus.

Ok, so what is the message in this for us here today?...Well, 1st we need to know what Jesus means when He speaks of this "living water" that He will give to all who believe in Him...John gives us the answer later in his Gospel. He says that the living water that Jesus gives is the Holy Spirit – the same Holy Spirit Jesus would send to His disciples after He returned to heaven, to be their helper, ..to remind them of all He had taught them, & to give them the courage & faith to go & spread His Gospel to the whole world...This same Holy Spirit has been given to each of us when we were baptized in water & the Holy Spirit,...& when the Bishop anointed us at our Confirmation: "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit,"...& we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit...Yes, the living water Jesus offered to the woman at the well, & offers to us is the Holy Spirit...the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity.

St. Paul in 1Cor 6, told the believers at Corinth, “Your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit.” ...What Paul was saying is that when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord & Savior,...the Holy Spirit will dwell within us...& will work in us & for us... if we surrender to the Holy Spirit and let the Holy Spirit take over...
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There may be some of you here today who would say, “Deacon Ron, right now, I’m running on empty.”The rest of us might say that we’re ok...but, you know how quickly that can change. ...because in life, there are so many things that can render you spiritually & emotionally empty, ...like battling a serious illness or caring for a loved one who is...like trying to save a troubled marriage. ...worrying about losing your job...feeling unloved, unappreciated...struggling with an addiction or other bad habit... dealing with a troubled child... being too angry, too stressed, or too numb to pray....just to name a few. ...It’s during these times of emptiness, when there is no worldly source that can fill you up, ...that Jesus offers you to drink from His well of living water, the Holy Spirit,...If you call on the Holy Spirit to fill you with Holy Spirit power as He did for those 1st disciples, & you let the Holy Spirit take over,..then don’t be surprised if amazing things happen. ...things start to change...you start to change...

If you’ve been down & discouraged,...you’ll become more upbeat, more hopeful,..less grumpy. ...You’ll start to see beauty & goodness where you’ve never seen them before,...You’ll find it easier to forgive & to ask for forgiveness,...You’ll be better able to handle the stresses that are part of being a spouse, or a parent, or a teenager, or a caregiver, or someone who needs a caregiver....You’ll worry less, & trust God more...you will start to pray more, ...you’ll come to church more open to hearing what God wants you to hear through...the liturgy,...through the readings from Script. & the homily. ...Receiving Holy Comm. will become one of the most important parts of your week. ...You’ll have a smile of gratitude on your face as you receive the gift of Christ’s body into your very own body...as He becomes one with you.

Yes, when you drink of the living water Jesus offers...when you call on the Holy Spirit,..these things can happen to you. ...& when they do, it would be good to follow the example of the woman at the well...When Jesus promised her the living water to quench her spiritual thirst,.. & she realized who He was,...she ran to tell the all the people in the town...They must’ve seen the remarkable change in this broken woman as she told them about Jesus ...& because of her testimony many came to believe in Him...

My friends, there are people everywhere thirsting for something to fill the emptiness in their lives, ...an emptiness only God can fill...If you let them see how the Holy Spirit has done this for you,...how your trust in the Holy Spirit has changed you,... when they see how you conduct your life,... how you handle life’s troubles & trials & temptations,...when they see how following Jesus helps you to forgive...helps you refuse to judge what’s in another person’s heart,...when they see your concern & care for the poor,...& your respect for the sacredness of ALL human life, ...When you let them see how the living water – the Holy Spirit - is working in you,...they will be hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them louder than any preacher could scream from the pulpit. ...& your living testimony will bring many of them to want what you have...to want to drink of the living water...That’s our mission – folks - as baptized Christians – to bring others to heaven along with us.

One more thing. Jesus wants us to be like those 1st disciples...who let the Holy Spirit power work in them & thru them to do what they never thought they could do without Him....So, if we only say one prayer each day, let it be a prayer to the Holy Spirit as soon as we wake up: ...”Holy Spirit, thank you for kicking me out of bed this morning...Be with me throughout this day...working in me & thru me...so that every thought I think,...every word I speak,... everything I do today...will be pleasing to you, the Father, & the Son who deserve only my very best.”

....And if you're a husband, you might want to add, "and please Holy Spirit, if my wife is right about anything today, help me to listen to her before I make a fool of myself.." ... AMEN.