

Homily march 7th 2010 – Third Sunday of Lent

So, how is your lent going? Are you finding time to be still with God?

This past week I was blessed with much time with God as I prepared for not one but two homilies for this weekend.

One about the parable of the fig tree and the other about the Samaritan woman at the well.

I found a common thread between the two that I feel compelled to share both with you.

(Open suitcase and take out remote control)

I have here in my hand a very special remote control that will assist us in seeing the presence of God with us in both Gospels here today. Lets see if this thing works.

Ok, here is an applause button. So if I push it, and point it at you, maybe you will all applaud loudly celebrating community **And** when I point it at you a second time and hit the stop button, I guess you will stop.

OK here goes:(press applause button)
.....
.....adjust the volume turn it up a bit...ok here
goes.....(press again)

Very Good. Its FULLY CHARGED!

On **channel Luke 13 (press button)** we have the parable of the fig tree.

Lets go to **Channel John 4 for a moment** (the 11:00 Gospel) where we have the story of the woman at the well.

OK, Most of you know this story....about the Samaritan woman.

An outcast from her community She meets Jesus, a Jew, at the well of Jacob.. Jesus asks her for a drink of water, she responds somewhat sarcastically that Jews and Samaritans share nothing in common.

But! Jesus does not view her as a Samaritan, he accepts her as she is.

He knew she had 5 husbands and was living with another out of wedlock..

He knew She was an outcast of the community, rejected, despised, most likely physically and psychologically abused and sent for water at noon The hottest time of day.

And here alone she encounters Jesus the Messiah the Christ.

Yes, She comes for water , but deep down what she really thirsts for is forgiveness and healing. She needs what we all need. She needs to know she is loved in spite of it all.

Meeting Jesus she realized that he knew her. Really knew her. But it was more than that, **he understood her and how she got to where she was.** As Jesus understands us.

And this is the key here: he did not condemn her. **Jesus entered into her suffering.**

He looked directly at her as he spoke to her. You have to wonder when was the last time anyone in her community took the time to look at her, speak kindly to her, Engage her as a human being.

Jesus, entering into her suffering, validated her. **He pushes the erase button (Press it)** and she becomes new in Christ. She receives a new sense of worth, purpose, identity.

This is what the living waters of our Baptism does for us. We are born again is Christ.

She was being fed spiritually. And you know what? So was Jesus! As he said “ my food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work”.

Ever wonder what was happening inside Jesus as he was being fed, feeling the grace of his Father flow through himself to others?

Ok, **Back to Channel Luke 13 (press button)** Think for a moment at how this connects with the fig tree parable.

Us being the fig trees and Jesus being our constant gardener, interceding for us, he pushes the **save button**, (press it) saving us, caring for us, staying close to us....watering and feeding us so that we might what? Bear fruit. Do you see the connection here? Relationship?

We too, as Jesus said, become fed as we bear fruit and do the will of God. This Gospel tells us to Get busy do not delay using what we are blessed with. We do not know what the future will bring.

And the woman at the well? **We can hit fast Forward** (press button) and see that she didn't procrastinate, She went out immediately to bear fruit. She repented as she turned away from sin and became faithful to the Gospel.

She faced her community and proclaimed the good news.

Many in her town who once looked down upon her, now too, came to believe for they said, “ we have heard for ourselves and know that he is truly the savior of the world.”

Lets move to our Channel (press button)

So, we ask ourselves during lent.. Are we bearing fruit from the fig tree, being fed as we feed others?

Do the living waters of Our baptism quench our thirst and assist us in offering a cup of water to the thirsty?

Do we feel the waters, the grace flowing between us and others?

We all are good at procrastinating and we must realize that God calls us for today!

So, **We can hit our fast forward button for answers**, (press button) but we see a snowy blank screen , because our story is unfolding.

But we do have **plenty of menu options for us**: (Press button)

As Jesus knew and more importantly understood the woman:

Do we know the homeless... do we understand them?

Do we know and feed the hungry... Do we understand them?

Do we know those in crisis.... do we understand them?

Do we know the plight of the unborn... do we truly understand them?

Do we know the pain of the men and women who were a party to abortion and are suffering and grieving the loss now...do we truly understand them?

Do we know our brothers and sisters, the migrants, do we truly understand them?

Can we meet any or all of them at the well, drink of the cup and look into their eyes, enter into their suffering as Jesus does?

Can we “do well” as Jesus did at the well.

Pick any one on the menu, and don't hit the pause button, hit the **play button!** Sit at the well with others

And if you now are sitting here in the pew suffering today as the woman at the well suffered.

You may be asking, Deacon Bob, how can I be expected to offer water to others when my well is empty? You aren't expected to.

But the good news is you belong to a faith community that cares what you are going through. And through the many ministries here you need not go thirsty or hungry any longer.

Please do not be afraid to reach out. We are here to share a cup of water and the fruit of Jesus with you.

Ok how are the batteries doing on this thing.

Oh Look, there is a well button and a fruit button. I wonder what happens if I push both at the same time. (DON'T HIT YET)

Maybe when we take the time ask someone how they are doing and they respond "I am doing well", we will return to the moment at the well.

Maybe connecting to Jesus randomly through our day, coming to know, understand, and enter into both the wellness and suffering as Jesus did. OK, fruit and well button: **(HIT BOTH BUTTONS NOW and point and scan at congregation.)**

Today the day of the 1st Scrutiny, Please pray for our Elect as they like the woman of samaria who thirsted for living water turn to the Lord and hear his word. May they come to know Jesus and bear the good fruit of their relationship with him.

And today as we come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ, that we too do the will and the will of Christ.

Be Well