



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 8, Wednesday, March 1

Fr. Nolan Lowry, Director of Sanctity of Life Office, Diocese of Tyler

Intention:

That we may recognize the Samaritan “Woman at the Well” in every encounter with persons within the context and even outside of our pro-life efforts.

Scripture:

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?” They went out of the town and came to him.

— *John 4:28-30*

Reflection:

In the heat of the day, a Samaritan woman goes to Jacob’s well to draw water to satisfy her most basic form of thirst. She goes at a time when the crowds are absent because she is ashamed of her lifestyle. At the well, she encounters Jesus of Nazareth, who meets her “where she is” to accompany her to His truth and love.

Jesus thus uncovers her real thirst: the thirst of her soul for intimacy and belonging. The pain of loneliness, and thirst for fulfillment in life, has led her down a path of heartache. In response, He promises to give her living water that will quench her thirsting soul for good. The water of life is His love, His presence. Just by being with Jesus, and experiencing His compassion and understanding, the woman’s life

changes for the better. Once she comes to realize He is the Messiah, there is much joy in her heart — joy that overflows into her inviting others to meet Him. Jesus’ voice, heard with sincere faith, softens the woman’s heart, and changes her life forever. She embarks on a new journey of peace and intimacy with God after encountering Jesus.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for meeting me where I was before I really knew You, and thank You for leading me to Your love and truth. Help me to be Your presence to all those I meet at “the well” at work, the grocery store, the mall, even at my church. May I reserve my judgment and instead be Your instrument of healing and peace, so that I may lead each person to You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.