

Today begins the third Sunday in our Lenten journey. We meet the Woman at the Well, the Samaritan Woman....a nameless woman who trudged to the well in the heat of the day to avoid meeting the townsfolk. Because of her lifestyle she has been ostracized from her town. On this day, like so many she just wants to be left alone. No one talks to her anyway.

But on this particular day, there is a man sitting at the well. A Jewish man – doesn't he know they can't speak to each other. The cultural norms prohibit it. The gospel says Jesus is tired. I bet she is tired too – tired of holding onto to everything that separates her from others.

Yet when Jesus asks for a drink, her annoyance grows. He doesn't even have a cup. How could he want a drink?

Jesus encounters this woman where she is – mired in her own judgments and recrimination. He invites himself into her heart – with care – and with truth spoken in love. It doesn't take much for the woman to open her heart. She's been ready for a long time. How long can one sit in loneliness, in isolation...and no one spoke to her like this before.

Encounters with Jesus are like that – they cut through the blocks that keep us apart and free us to be the messengers of good news – if we let them.

This week be open to an encounter with Jesus. He is waiting - right in the midst of your life.