Samaritan woman

- Why get water at noon?
    - outcast - she's led a shameful life and is too embarrassed
    - gossipped about
- Woman, Samaritan, Adulterer - three times the outcast … yet Jesus comes to her

- Two Types of Water
    - Well Water - worldly goods - Wealth, Power, Pleasure Honor
        - go back to again and again but will never be quite satisfied
        - we're not made for the things of this world - we are made for God
            - Oh Lord, you have made us for thyself ….
        - Brian Welch
    - Living Water - **GRACE** - life and love of God - NECESSARY FOR HEAVEN
        - this is what will satisfy so you will never go thirsty or be needy for worldly goods
        - this is what will make you holy
        - this is what will make you a Saint
        - work miracles

- side note - Jesus exposes her greatest shame - WHYYY???
- How would it feel like to have your sins and mistakes and greatest embarrassments pointed out???
    - you can't run from your sins - your mistakes - your past
    - bring your sins / burdens to Jesus so he can HEAL them and make straight your crooked past

- She goes and shares the love of God with people who never shared it with her
- How can you tell she has CHANGED??
- Why would she go and share with people who hated and despised her???
    - Encounter with Christ TRANSFORMED her.
    - Does the impossible and forgives those who tormented her - Does what ONLY GOD CAN DO
    - No Fear
    - Not ashamed of her PAST because Jesus healed it

THREE MOVEMENTS

1. Encounter with Jesus / Receive Grace
2. Transformation / Healing
3. Do the impossible / bring people to Jesus

Grace is very important - where do we get it?

SACRAMENTS - an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace

- humanity is dead because of its sin, but God wants to jump start you and bring you to life by channeling his own life into you
- 7 channels / conduits by which God gives you his grace
- Jesus is very interested in transforming you into DIVINITY into a SAINT --- you will do the IMPOSSIBLE
    - Mass is never waste of time - becasue in doing so God is transforming you into GOD / Himself

Confirmation

- What is the Secret Fire???
    - ancient title for the Holy Spirit
- JRR Tolkein was Catholic + LOTR is Catholic allegory
    - “Secret Fire” is dead giveaway that LOTR is Catholic story
    - more discreet that CS Lewis where blatantly obvious that Aslan is Jesus
- By CONFIRMATION, you all become servants of the Secret Fire
    - 7 gifts of the HS
    - tools and means to go out into the PUBLIC sphere vs. PRIVATE sphere --- i myself will grow in holiness with me and Jesus, won’t bother anyone
    - PUBLICLY proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- expected to do battle with the Bal’rog and snatch souls away from the kingdom of satan and into the kingdom of heaven
    - instruct the ignorant
    - proclaim Christ to the non-believers
    - face off against sin and human depravity and dysfunction
        - injustice - econ, social, environmental, political
    - fight greed, despair, suicide, pride, immorality
- as soldiers you are expected to fight, suffer, and to die for the sake of Christ --- red gowns --- willingness to shed blood + fire of the Secret Fire

- Baltimore Catechism - soldier of Christ
- the Church, esp. those confirmed, is a standing army that is meant to pillage Hell and ransack it
    - the gates of Hell shall not prevail against the Church

John 4:4-21, 28, 29, 39-42

1) He had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

2) A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.)

3) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." [The woman] said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"

4) Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

5) Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true."

6) The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;[*] but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

7) … 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?" … Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman[*] who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.

Mass Readings for 2/23/2014

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

The LORD said to Moses,
"Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them:
Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.
Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen,
do not incur sin because of him.
Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
I am the LORD."

Mt 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples:
"You have heard that it was said,
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.
When someone strikes you on your right cheek,
turn the other one as well.
If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,
hand over your cloak as well.
Should anyone press you into service for one mile,
go for two miles.
Give to the one who asks of you,
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?
Do not the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brothers only,
what is unusual about that?
Do not the pagans do the same?
So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."