5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Samaritan Woman.

When the Samaritan woman came back in haste to her town and called all those who lived around her to see Christ, she said: ‘Come! Here is a Man who has told me everything I have done!’ And the people flocked around, and listened to what Christ had to say.

At times we think, how easy it was for this woman to believe and how easy it was for her, from within this shattering experience to turn to others and say: Come! Listen to one who has spoken as no-one else has ever spoken, One Who, without a word of mine has seen into the depth of my heart, into the darkness of my life, has seen and known everything.

But is it not something that can happen to each of us? Christ did not tell her anything very singular; He told her who she was, what her life had been, how God saw her. But this He can tell us every day of our life, and not in a mystical experience, not as it happened to some saints, but in the simplest possible way.

 The question we must ask ourselves is do we take the opportunity to seek and drink of the “living water” that Christ provides us? Has our fountain run dry? Do we truly thirst for God? Do we truly try to seek Christ in our lives? Do we truly try to abide and follow the teachings of His Gospel? The answer is no. Nowadays, we turn to God when it is convenient for us, we don’t take the time to truly learn about the Son of the living God, we don’t make an effort to make Christ the center and everyday part of our lives, if we did “the living water” would be graciously poured upon us daily, but instead we end up choosing to be “part-time Christians”. More and more it seems that we want to live by our own Gospel and not by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead, we should actively seek out Christ in our lives just as the Samaritan woman did when she asked Christ “Where then do You get that living water?”

St. Seraphim of Sarov famously stated “the true aim of our Christian life consists of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God” therefore, if we are serious about being Orthodox Christians and truly want to drink of the “living water” and have the Holy Spirit grace and be part of our everyday lives we must do our part. Firstly, we must wholeheartedly learn to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Mt.22:37). Secondly, we must make an effort to attend Church on a regular basis, to pray more regularly at home, to confess our sins more often, to commune the Blood and Body of our Lord more frequently, to make an effort to really fast, to truly learn not to judge others, to readily forgive others who have wronged us and to help those who need our physical or spiritual assistance at all times.

Once, the young man came to the priest and said. Why have I come to the church if God is everywhere, I can pray at home or in my car or at work. But priest answered and said to him. The whole planet is filled and covered with water, but if we want to drink we go to a well.

Therefore, during this fifth Sunday of Pascha each one of us must strive for that “living water” each day so that we may never find ourselves spiritually parched for God’s presence in our lives. Just as the Samaritan woman wanted to learn about Christ and asked Him “give me this water, that I may not thirst” we also each day must ask Christ to give us His “living water” so that it may spiritually sustain us during these difficult times that we live in as Christians. The more we humble ourselves and ask Christ for this “living water” the more our lives will be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit spreading love and joy, not only within our own households, but to all those who encounter us and know us. By sharing the “living water” with others, we become true disciples and witnesses of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Glory be to God for all things!