

## GOD THIRSTS FOR US, HOW DO WE RESPOND?

In today's Gospel, Jesus meets the woman at the well and asks her for a drink. Little did she know, it was God himself who was asking! As we know – having read the story – this woman's life would soon be completely revitalized through this encounter with Jesus.

Jesus was thirsty, but his thirst was for more than water. We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water – there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. **Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us.** Whether we realize it or not, **prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.** (#2560, emphasis mine).

**WHAT A WONDERFUL THOUGHT: ALMIGHTY GOD THIRSTS FOR US!** How do we respond to such a sublime

truth? How can we satisfy the thirst of our Lord?

There are many ways: keeping the Commandments, loving our neighbor as ourselves, going to Mass, going to Confession, giving to those in need, treating the least as we would treat Christ, etc. Here, I would like to focus on two fundamental ways: adoration and prayer.



After the woman asked Jesus about the proper way to worship, he replied, "Yet an hour is coming and is already here, when authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers the Father seeks." We might

ask, "What is authentic worship?" In our Catechism we read:

Adoration is the first act of the virtue of religion. **To adore God is to acknowledge him as God, as the Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love.** "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve," says Jesus, citing Deuteronomy. **To adore God is to acknowledge, in respect and absolute submission, the "nothingness of the creature" who would not exist but for God. To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself,** as Mary did in the Magnificat, **confessing with gratitude** that he has done great things and holy is his name. **The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world.** (#2096,2097).

Please read this citation again and ask yourself: **HAVE I ENTERED INTO AUTHENTIC WORSHIP TODAY?**

What is prayer? St. Teresa of Avila answers: "Contemplative prayer [*oracion mental*] in my opinion is nothing else than **a close sharing between friends;** it means **taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.**" Please, read this simple, yet profound, definition again and ask yourself:

**HAVE I ENTERED INTO CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER TODAY?**

In this Lenten season, God wants us to experience, to know with the certainty of faith, his love and thirst for us. Like the woman at the well he asks us for a drink—if we respond with adoration and prayer, our lives too can be completely revitalized. Now that's good news! Happy Lent!

Your Servant in Christ,  
Fr. Terry Staples