

Bible Readings – 22nd March, 2020

Psalm 46

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. According to *alamoth*.^[b] A song.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
 an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
 and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam
 and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 God is within her, she will not fall;
 God will help her at break of day.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
 he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD Almighty is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- 10 He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations,
 I will be exalted in the earth.’
- 11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our fortress.

John 4:1-29

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptising more disciples than John – 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’ 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

10 Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’

11 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?'

13 Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'

16 He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.'

17 'I have no husband,' she replied.

Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'

19 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.'

21 'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'

25 The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'

26 Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.'

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?'

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?'