

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(Formerly St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

www.ChristTheKingAbbey.org

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Daily: 6:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation:

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama
10:45 AM
Only on first Sunday
of each month

St Pius V Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama
9:30 AM
Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 17, 2008 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Lent

Weekly Bulletin #1029

Lent

THE TALE OF TWO WOMEN

Once upon a time, as told us in the Gospel of St. John, Jesus, together with His disciples, left Judea and went again into Galilee. The road on which they traveled passed through Samaria. As they slowly moved along on foot, the road led them through a small town that was near the well known and much revered “Jacob’s Well.” This well was looked upon as a sort of holy place. It had been dug by Jacob, who was the grandson of Abraham and himself the father of the twelve sons from whom sprang the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Very serious history was centered around this well. Our Lord was happy to reach the well for more than just arriving at a place where He could sit and rest for a while. He sat on one of the stone seats that were attached to the well. He remained at the well while He sent the Apostles on to the nearby town to buy food for their evening meal.

As He was sitting on the stone seat, enjoying the cool shade of the trees that surrounded the place, a stranger woman approached the well to draw water. Of a sudden, and quite unexpected by the woman, He asked her to give Him a drink of water. She was a Samaritan woman, and it was rather obvious to her that the Man asking for a drink of water was a Jew. Such a request coming from a Jew startled her, for the Jews hated the Samaritans with a vengeance, and the feelings of the Samaritans toward the Jews were not very different. That a Jew should ask a Samaritan, and a woman at that, for any favor whatsoever was simply unthinkable. The Jews felt it tainting for even the shadow of a Samaritan to fall upon them. Even though the woman was confused and bewildered, an exchange of words started between the two of them. It did not take long for the conversation to become quite interesting. It very soon became evident to the woman that the Man Who was asking her for a drink of water was not an ordinary man. It began to occur to her that this Man was a prophet. Even though He was a total stranger, the Man knew all about her. He knew, in detail, all about her life history and her numerous escapades, and agreed with her when she told Him that she had no husband. He knew about her several “marriages”!

The conversation continued in such a way that the woman became quite certain this Man was not an ordinary prophet, but was a very great prophet. They spoke of the hoped-for and expected Messiah, and of the grave need for His coming. She, like all the members of her race, cried out for a redeemer, a leader that would lead all the people of Israel successfully against the hated Romans. Then, without warning, Jesus did a most unexpected and very startling thing. He made a very solemn statement, the very first such statement made to anybody (His Mother and St. Joseph, of course, excluded, for they certainly knew Who He was). It was a public and official statement that was clear, precise, and very much to the point, made to an unknown woman who was nameless then and who has remained nameless throughout all ages. Jesus said to her; “I WHO SPEAK WITH THEE AM HE!”

Such astonishing words had never been heard by any public figure before that moment. She was stunned! Even though many times in His public life Christ had demonstrated powers that were far beyond human powers, He had never proclaimed exactly who He really was. No one knew, not even Satan, who was very much interested in the identity of Christ. This revelation was made to a poor sinful and nameless Samaritan woman, all because she gave Him a drink of water? No doubt, our Lord saw in the soul of this confused woman that which He looks for in all of us. She was beside herself with excitement, but before she had a chance to respond, the disciples returned, surprised to find the Master talking with a Samaritan woman. The arrival of the disciples silenced her, and whatever answer she may have had was never given. She ran! She ran to the town, loudly and excitedly proclaiming, “COME AND SEE A MAN WHO HAS TOLD ME ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE DONE. IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST?”

Let us now turn our attention to another very interesting and auspicious occasion. It was early morning on the first day of the week. First light was just beginning to appear. It was the third day after the infamous crucifixion and murder of Jesus Christ. Some women were on their way to the tomb of Jesus in order to place spices on the Sacred Body. They were worried about rolling back the huge stone that sealed off the burial place. Upon arrival, they discovered that the stone was already rolled away from the entrance. As they approached the entrance they saw that the body was not in the sepulcher. Panic seized them all, and they feared the very worst – that someone had stolen the Body.

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