

Special Water!

- Bottled water...
- Different varieties - taste test...
 - one special... other just ordinary...
 - what differences?
- In the story we read we heard about woman who was looking for water
 - she was looking for ordinary water
 - but the water she was offered by Jesus was special water - water that gives life!
- Water as a vivid picture of the refreshing, life-saving gift of God!

Introduction

- What things get in the way of our hearing and responding to what Jesus offers us?
- Who are you most like in this story?

The Samaritan Woman

- The Samaritan woman might have thought that Jesus wouldn't want to know her for a number of reasons:
 - the feud between Jews and Samaritans;
 - the fact that in those times a man wouldn't have spoken with an unknown woman;
 - her questionable lifestyle (vs.17,18)
- Also, she tries to keep Jesus at a distance:
 - she's preoccupied with a missing bucket (v.11)
 - she avoids Jesus' questioning with a theological debate (v.20)
- Jesus knows about her troubled life and offers her a more satisfying life through belief in him (vs.10,14)
 - he helps her to understand more about who God is (vs.24-26,29)
 - she hears and responds to Jesus' offer of new life

The Disciples

- The disciples were worried about lunch
 - they're surprised to find Jesus talking with this woman...
 - her needs aren't on their minds...
 - they wanted Jesus to eat the food they'd brought (v.31)
 - they were frustrated that someone else seemed to have bought food while they were away (v.33)
 - everyday concerns stopped them understanding what was really important (v.32)
 - *(is this like us and things like noise in church??)*

The Samaritans

- The Samaritans listened to what the woman told them about Jesus and came to hear for themselves:
 - about his offer of life
 - Jesus spent time talking with them, so that they too could respond with belief (vs.41,42)

And ourselves?

- What gets in the way of our coming to Jesus?
 - perhaps like the woman, we have secrets that we'd rather others - or God? - didn't know about...
 - perhaps, like the disciples, we're so bothered about everyday concerns that we don't see what God's doing...
- The good news is that nothing is hidden from Jesus yet he still offers us new life (vs.14,22b)
 - let's respond with belief, like the woman: "give me this water..." (v.15)
 - and like the other Samaritans:
 - *They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."* (v.42)