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Lent 2020



Development  
and Peace

CARITAS CANADA

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

John: 4:5-15, 19-26, 40-42

**The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am He, the one who is speaking to you.”**

Jews and Samaritans had different ideas about God and prayer. This affected their daily lives. They did not interact much and tended to not have much respect for one another because of their differences. So, the woman at the well is surprised when Jesus, a Jew, asks her, a Samaritan, for a drink.

Jesus affirmed the value and dignity of everyone he met, including the vulnerable, the poor and the sick. Rising above the custom of the time, Jesus did not see or judge others by their sins, their gender, their origins or their customs. He saw every person through the eyes of love.

Most women would perform the hard work of raising water at dawn or dusk. That this woman is at the well in the midday heat indicates that she is an outcast. But her sins and challenges do not matter to Jesus, who treats her with respect and love.

Jesus often affirms the place of women in His stories. Here again, He breaks prevailing social and cultural norms to address the woman at the well with dignity, speaking to her honestly, and engaging her in His love and truth. We are called to do the same with the outcasts of our society today.

Currently, in the Amazon, two different visions of how to live and prosper are coming head to head. Those who believe that the future lies in mining, logging and large-scale farming and ranching want to cut the jungles down. Indigenous and traditional people, on the other hand, want to preserve the jungles to protect their livelihoods and the health of the planet.

How can we, as Jesus did, see the dignity in everyone involved in this conflict? How do we listen to the voices of those who are pushed aside, those who are different from us? How can we prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable? How do we respond to the call to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers and with Mother Earth?

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### Discussion questions:

- **What opportunities do we have in our daily lives to affirm someone’s dignity?**

Visit [devp.org/campaign/mura](https://devp.org/campaign/mura) to hear testimonies from the Mura people of Brazil. Share their stories with family and friends or on social media.