

✠ INI ✠

It all started with a casual encounter at the local well.

Jesus was tired, waiting for his disciples to return from the local grocer (Jn 4:8).

Up walks a woman, a Samaritan woman.

She's careful not to make eye contact with Jesus—

“(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans)” (4:9).

But quite unexpectedly, Jesus starts up a conversation, “Give me a drink” (4:7).

It all started casually at the local well.

Who would've thought this to lead “many Samaritans from that town [to believe] in Him” (4:39)?

But it did.

It led the woman to see her sin as sin—

no more lying and cheating; no more adultery (4:16-18).

It also led her to the truth—

to “true worship...worshiping the Father in Spirit and Truth” (4:23).

Jesus took a casual meeting at the local well,

He took a woman, horribly oppressed and burdened by her sin,

And turned it into her salvation, as well as the salvation for many of her neighbors.

I suppose you could call this, “*Faith Talk*.”

The woman was released from the weight of her secret sins (her 5 husbands),

she was brought into a fellowship with Jesus, where before she only knew loneliness.

Her life was changed when she believed Jesus for who He is—

“I who speak to you am He [the Messiah, who is called Christ]” (4:25-26).

All it took was a casual meeting at the local well, with Jesus—

both for the Samaritan woman in today's reading,

and also for you at your Baptism.

Just a meeting at the well—though, perhaps not so casual.

What you received at your Baptism was what the Samaritan woman received at the well:

Release, freedom, life, salvation, community, and *faith*.

You were given the whole Jesus—all He is and all He has.

And you believed Him to be who He has promised to be.

Now, just as that Samaritan woman couldn't keep such news to herself,

but ran home, “leaving her water jar, telling the town about this Jesus she met” (4:28-29),

so you, the baptized, are sent to tell your towns about this Jesus, too.

The faith you share is the faith *given* to you—

first at the well of Holy Baptism,

and then continually put in you and on you by the preaching of the Gospel

and the receiving of His body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Faith is the *receiving* of gifts—

“Faith Talk” then, is the “gift talk.”

And the place where the Lord’s gifts are given is in the Word.

Where the Word and Well come together, along with the sinner in need of freedom—  
there you have Holy Baptism, faith, and the whole Jesus—given as a gift.

It’s this gift of faith the Samaritan woman shared with others.

She didn’t have any lessons or training—she just said what she knew.

And you don’t need to worry about that either—

just say what you know, *Who* you know,

and let Him take care of the rest.

✠ *INI* ✠