

## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman - St. Photini

### John 4:5-42



The sun was hot at noon. Tired from the long journey, Jesus sat by a well in Samaria to rest, saw a woman of Samaria and said to her, "Give me a drink." She was surprised that Jesus had spoken to her, because He was a Jew and she a Samaritan, and Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus only responded by saying that He would have given her the gift of living water, if she had asked. She was confused, because she thought He was talking about real water from the well, and He didn't have anything to get the water out with! But He continued to explain that whoever drinks of *His* water will not thirst again, ... but will become a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. Jesus was talking about the true life - a fountain of life - which come from the gift of the Holy Spirit. The woman said that she really wanted some of this water. Then Jesus said an interesting thing to her. He said, "Go, call your husband, and come here." (4:17) She said, "I have no husband." Jesus said that she answered well,

because she has had five husbands already, and the one she's with now isn't really her husband! She thought that Jesus must be a prophet (4:19) They continued to talk about worshipping the true God (Samaritans had a wrong idea about who God is.) The woman said that she was waiting for the Messiah to come (who is called Christ). (4:25) Jesus told her, "I who speak to you am He." (4:26) Then the disciples returned and were surprised that Jesus had been talking with a Samaritan woman. The woman left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to everyone, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (4:28,29)

After this encounter with the Lord, we are told that "and many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." (4:39) The Samaritan woman becomes the first evangelist, testifying to the advent of Christ and bringing others to Him. According to an early tradition, after the Resurrection of Christ she was baptized and given the Christian name Photini, "the enlightened one." Along with her two sons and give daughters she went to Carthage to spread the gospel. They were arrested, taken to Rome under Nero, imprisoned, and later martyred. According to tradition, St. Photini, who first met Christ beside a well was martyred for Christ by being thrown into a well. The Church remembers her on March 20.



A woman from the country of Samaria was at the well. Jesus was thirsty and asked her for a drink. Jesus told her all about her life and about the many gifts of God's kingdom. She believed He was God, and she told many people about Jesus. Later, she became the Christian Saint named Photini.