



## OUR LENT REFLECTIONS 2021 (1)

**“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:7)**

These words echo the bare truth that we are not in this world to stay forever but we will all someday return to dust where we came from. We will die physically leaving behind what we valued as our material wealth. However, this is not the end for those who are in Christ Jesus as he will raise them up on the last day when he shall return to take those who, during the course of their earthly lives received him as their personal Lord and Saviour. Participants at a recent discussion meeting concluded that this calls us to reset our priorities.

***‘We are known by God’ (John 4:1-42)***

John introduces Jesus as the light that came to remove the darkness that was in this world including that which was in our lives. In doing this, everything about us is exposed and known to God. As Jesus talks to the woman at the well, we see that Jesus knew already everything that she ever did. Our lives too today are not hidden from that “Light.” He knows everything about us and everything we have done. Jesus knows our struggles and our successes; he knows our weaknesses and strengths. You may continue with the list. God is also quite aware of the sad experiences we are going through as a result of Coronavirus. People are being infected and dying. Normal freedoms have been curtailed.

Since God already knows us there is need for us to truthfully and honestly open up to him as we struggle to find the living water. Material things are essential and good but fall short of meeting our need for the Saviour. As we entrust our hearts to Jesus, he becomes that living water to us. When we have him in our lives, we will be made whole and complete. It is only the Messiah called the Christ who is able to do this for us and he is inviting us to accept his offer willingly. This encounter between a tired, thirsty and hungry man and an ordinary Samaritan woman who had come to draw water at Jacob’s Well shows that these two had religious and cultural differences. Drawing water from the well and sharing the same vessel to drink water was initially seen as impossible by the woman. Issues of gender, social status and class, race, nationality, tribes, religion, morality and personal ego were all at play as the two strangers searched for common ground. More often than not, we are caught up in the web of treating others as strangers and feel entitled to those ‘things’ that we consider as ours. The Samaritan woman emerged as the greatest beneficiary, having received the precious gift of salvation offered by Jesus. From thus onwards, she became the source of living water. Her immediate community were held back in shock and wonder as she shared her testimony: “Come and see the person who has told everything that I have done.” This encounter became an opportunity for the woman to be known intimately by and believe in Jesus. We are challenged to be aware of the same saving mission of Jesus Christ extended to us today.



**Food for thought**

*Was the Samaritan woman pursuing the right priorities in her life?*

*What things are worth pursuing in our daily lives?*

*Where do we place God in our lives?*

*When we have resources, how have we treated those in need?*

*What conditions do we set before we serve or get along with others?*

**Prayer**

*Everything comes from you O God and we give to you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Thank you for reminding us that we brought nothing in this world and we shall exit without anything. Make our hearts restless O Lord until we get to know you as our source of living water. Lord, keep these desires and thoughts in our hearts forever, and keep our hearts loyal to you. Grant us Lord wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to share this life generously with others. **Amen***