

A JV Perspective

Trust amidst the coronavirus

March 2020

This past Sunday was weird. Never in my life has public mass been cancelled and all church-goers prevented from attending liturgy, the very work of the people. As many others were, I was saddened by the fact I wouldn't be able to be with my spiritual family, receive the Bread of Life, or break open the Word of God in the same way. So how are we to continue as people of faith during such tumultuous times?

In reflecting on the readings from this past Sunday, I kept returning to the need to trust. In the first reading, the people grumbled against Moses and against the LORD because they lost trust that he would lead them through the desert. They doubted that he would give them the needs of the body to carry them through. But he did - God granted them their needs, gave them water and saved them, even when everything was out of their hands. Similarly, in the Gospel reading Jesus offers the woman at the well living water, spiritual water. Though at first she wondered what he meant, Jesus does provide her with this spiritual water, as he is the Messiah sent to save her.

Today, we find ourselves in a desert, just as the Israelites or the Samaritan woman were. We find ourselves wandering, unsure of the way forward. We are thirsting. Thirsting for clarity, control, health, safety; spiritual and physical needs alike. But we know God to be constant and eternal. If he can deliver the Israelites from their thirst in the desert, and the Samaritan woman from her spiritual thirst, so too can he deliver us from all of our thirsts in the midst of crisis. Let us trust that he will.

Part of trusting is letting go of our desire to control a situation. If you're anything like me, most of your conversations over the last week or more have related to the coronavirus. But I believe that even in the midst of crisis there is much more to life. Let us continue to be cautious and aware, but let us also continue to live as God's people. Let us continue to love one another, to find joy in our days, to thank God for his blessings, to chat about the weather or read a good book. Once we have done all we can, let us put the rest in God's hands and trust in Him, then let us continue to live as children of the Divine.

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