

REDEEMER

THE LESSON: JOHN 4

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us.

What are we saying when we give Jesus the title “Redeemer”?

The concept of redemption is present from the very beginning of scripture, but it gets a thorough introduction in the laws laid out in the book of Leviticus. Redemption was a built-in rescue clause for situations and people who got off-track or lost. For example, we read: “If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your brother beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger’s clan, then after he is sold he may be redeemed. One of his brothers may redeem him” (25:47-48).

But scripture does something really interesting with this word. It doesn’t just remain a legal term used to discuss the recovery of slaves or property. It becomes an integral part of the language used to describe God’s love-relationship with his people. The book of the prophet Isaiah says this: “your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer” (54:5). Over and over again, the people of Israel needed – and experienced – God’s rescue.

God’s role as our Redeemer reaches its culmination in Jesus. Jesus was born into this world, lived and died “to give his life as a ransom” (Mark 10:45) so that we could have “redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Ephesians 1:7). The price he paid for us was not in money, but in his own blood. All of this tells us that we are *beloved*. No matter how much of a mess we have gotten ourselves into, Jesus considers us of such value that he gave himself up to restore us to a loving and right relationship with himself.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Imagine yourself at the well with Jesus. Consider for a few moments that he knows and is able to itemize everything you have ever done: all of the sins, shame and messiness of your past and present. In spite of this, he is here with you, the Redeemer, who loves you and has paid the price to restore you. You are his beloved. Spend some time meditating on the phrase: “I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me” (Song of Solomon 7:10).

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man’s understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (THE COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY, BCP PAGE 226)

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JOHN 4: **AT THE WELL WITH JESUS**

⁵So Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him...