

3rd Sunday of Lent

The God we love loves us not for what we want to be.

God loves us not for what we should be.

God loves us for what we are.

That is the basis, the starting point from which we move.

The woman comes to the well.

She was a Samaritan with the expectation that Jesus the Jew would despise her.

She was a woman with the expectation that Jesus would patronise her.

She was not respected in her community and thus assumed that Jesus would share this bad option of her.

But Jesus instead expressed his respect for her.

He honoured her with the clear revelation that he was the Christ.

What is fantastic is that this was done not after this woman had earned the trust.

Not after she had achieved some status or rank that justified confidence in her.

This was done to the woman who spoke to Jesus at the well as she was.

You are beautiful.

You are beautiful not because all those perceived blemishes have disappeared

You are beautiful not because you conform to some supposed notion of fashion.

You are beautiful because of the wonder of what you are.

That is how God sees you and that is where we begin the celebration of life.

You are good, truly honourable.

You are good not because all those persistent faults have now disappeared.

You are honourable not because you conform to some perceived notion of respectability.

You are good because of the wonder of what you are.

That is how God sees you and that is where we begin the celebration of life.

You are talented.

You are talented not because you have achieved your dreams, those with real talent never do.

You are talented not because you once won the X-Factor in front of millions of gullible viewers.

You are talented because the gifts God has given you are wonderful.

That is how God sees you and that is where we begin the celebration of life.

God loves us not for what we want to be.

God loves us not for what we should be.

God loves us for what we are.

The women at the well knew that love, and her energy for life was refreshed in a way more powerful than any drink, any stimulant.

If we could but see ourselves as God sees us.

If we could but love ourselves as God loves us.

Then we would begin the celebration of the rest of our lives, and each day refreshed by the hope and confidence of faith.

Believe in the love of God

You are beautiful

Truly ,truly beautiful.

Believe
and move on.