

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2024

### Question

In high school religion class, our young teacher was a newly professed sister. Instead of telling us what to believe or else—which is what previous years of religion class seemed all about—this sister asked us questions and invited us to ask our own. Someone asked why women couldn't be priests. Instead of putting a lid on this apparently dangerous line of thought, Sister smiled. "I wonder that myself," she said. We all relaxed. This religion class was going to be different.

It's clear from the biblical tradition that asking questions is essential to the journey of faith. Patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and sages put hard questions before rulers, crowds, even God. Especially God. Seeking clarification is how we learn and grow. The spirit of inquiry brings wisdom if we listen, ponder, and accept correction when needed. This is why the religious leaders in one of this week's gospel options misread Jesus completely. The Samaritan woman in the other story gets him totally.

Alice Camille, *Our Lenten Road to Holiness: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions* (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2024). Used with permission.

### Questions To Ponder:

Who is the best teacher that you have had in your life? How did he or she help you to ask the great questions of living and loving?

What is a faith question that you have pondered throughout your lifetime?

A mystery is not only something that cannot be easily solved. It is a question that has layers to peel in terms of deeper and deeper meaning. What is a mystery of our faith that you continually ponder?

### Lectio Divina: Read John 2:13-16

*Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."*

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

### Challenge for the Week:

Commit to learning something new this week. Read a book. Take an online mini-course. Read an article. Attend a lecture. Anything to expand your mind and help you to ask questions.