

RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE LIVING WATER

CHRIST SATISFIES THE THIRST OF OUR SOULS

In biblical times, the center of activity in any town or village was the well. The women came here daily to draw the water needed for their cooking, washing and other household chores. They would pause at the well to exchange the latest news with their friends. It would not be unusual for Christ to choose such a spot to rest while passing through the Samaritan town of Sychar. The conversation He was, however, and with whom he has it with, proves to be one of the most extraordinary events recorded in the Gospels!

While His disciples had gone into the city to buy food, Jesus begins talking with a Samaritan woman. She is puzzled that Christ would speak to her, for Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies. But our Lord came to *“seek and save”* everyone, and He uses this encounter to reveal to the woman Who He is and what He has to offer her *“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,”* Jesus points out, *“but whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will never thirst.”* As their dialogue continues, the woman expresses her belief that the Messiah will come one day and *“tell us all things.”* To her astonishment, Christ dramatically proclaims to her: *“I who speak to you am He.”*

According to the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the Samaritan woman was baptized after Christ's Resurrection, and given the name PHOTINI, which means *“the enlightened one.”* After years of spreading the gospel, she was martyred for Christ by being thrown in a well. She died, however, knowing that the *“living water of eternal life”* had sprung up within her!