

Where Is the Source of Love?



"*Dama de la fuente*". Fountain of the Ayuntamiento de Logroño and bronze statue by Francisco López (1932).

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**"It is not you who chose me, but I
who chose you."**

Jn 15:16

6 MY DESIRE: TRUE LOVE

5

Where Is the Source of Love?

"It is not you who chose me,
but I who chose you."

Jn 15:16



We've already seen that love is a path along which we learn to love. There are different stages.



But what is this love like?

The dynamism of love compels me to get out of myself in order to meet the other, "YOU".

Love is NOT how I love, or how my spouse loves me, or how my mother, my brother or my friend love me. My LOVE is LIMITED.

My love, which is limited, gets tired, worn out, errs, doesn't know how to do things well, doesn't put forth a full effort, seeks its own interest, tries but fails, and even sometimes gets extinguished.



... remember the limit

BUILDING UP LOVE

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5

Where Is the Source of Love?

1 Think about situations in your own life when you have experienced the limitations of your love or when you have not felt loved:



You mean so much to me, I don't know how I could have.....

You say you love me, but you didn't try like you could have.....

2 Being limited means that something is reduced. Love can be reduced, or run out, too, but it can never become totally empty because it can always be filled back up. Look at these examples!

We're playing a video game and the game ends. Can't we play again? Can we decide what to do?

GAME OVER

CONTINUE?

YES

▶ NO

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5

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When we buy a car and, after having a good time and driving it around, the gas light turns on...Do we throw the car away, or do we refuel? Can we refill the tank?



And when we use up all our phone credit, what do we do? Do we throw the phone in the trash can, or do we buy more credit?



When the washing machine or computer at your house breaks, do you call the scrap dealer or do you call a technician to come fix it?



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5

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3 The following words stand out in the examples above. Connect each word with the one that corresponds to it in the right-hand column:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| - WE CAN.....AGAIN | PERSEVERE |
| - DECIDE TO... | FEEL NEED |
| - REFILL... | HEAL |
| - ASK FOR MORE... | LOVE |
| - SPECIALIST TO HELP US... | HOPE |

¿What do you think these words mean in relation to love?



What happens with our limited love?

Can I fill my void?

If I feel that I need something, could that maybe be because I am not filled?

Can I cure my own wounds by myself?

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5

Where Is the Source of Love?

4 Now, we invite you to read this passage from the Gospel of John:

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him.

(Jn 4: 5-30)



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5

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Let's take a look at the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.



We invite you to make a little effort to see yourself as the protagonist of this story. Imagine that you are the one who has this encounter with Jesus:

What elements are found in this story? Can you explain what each of them symbolizes?

THE WELL _____

THE WATER JAR _____

THE WATER _____

THE TIREDNESS OF JESUS _____

JESUS'S THIRST _____

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN'S THIRST _____



Detail of the painting, "Jesus and the Samaritan Woman," Alonso Cano
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

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5

Where Is the Source of Love?

1. Jesus tired from the journey"

I also feel tired. On the path of love I also experience this tiredness, my limited love becomes exhausted. Sometimes I cannot go any further and my strength fails me.

Today Jesus tells me that he is waiting for me at the well. He is in my tent. He wants to help me pitch my tent, to choose the best spot. And on this journey, He understands my fatigue, welcomes my weakness. He makes himself one with me.

2. The thirst of the Samaritan woman. My thirst.

I, just like the Samaritan woman, am burdened with my water jar, full of my things. I go alone, like the Samaritan woman, leaving my past behind. It is difficult for me to carry the things of the world; they burden me without satiating or filling me. And every afternoon I go to the well to regain my strength, because I look for my strength within myself.

3. "Give me something to drink"

This evening, I meet Jesus, a person of flesh, blood and spirit, like me. And he wants to encounter me. He speaks to me and asks me to give him everything that is burdening me. He asks me to hand over everything that does not truly satisfy me, everything that hurts me, that doesn't make me happy.

4. "If you knew the gift of God"

He speaks to me of a GIFT, a present that he wants to give me. He speaks to me of love. Do I want to receive this gift?

5. "Give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water"

Am I willing to drink this water that will satisfy my heart?
Who will give it to me? Do I want to choose this water for my life?

6. "The woman left her water jar"

Does my encounter with Jesus and everything that he says to me: how he knows me, how he understands me, change my life?

Do I, like the Samaritan woman, leave my water jar at the well?

I no longer need to draw water from the well!

I no longer need my hands to draw water, because I have found the LIVING WATER! I have found true love! The wellspring of love!

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5

Where Is the Source of Love?



The first step is to recognize that I am weak and needy when it comes to love.

My need is to love and be loved.

The GIFT is LOVE.

To recognize the GIFT of GOD is to know that Someone loved me first, and this Someone is the inexhaustible source of love.

But I don't know God; who will show me the way? JESUS CHRIST is the GIFT of God for me. He is living and eternal LOVE, handed over for me. He is the one who approaches, hands himself over and lowers himself, in order to show me the true path of LOVE.

5 Now, we invite you to listen to two songs that speak of love as a GIFT and as a RESPONSE.

Listen to this song, placing your name, your PERSON, in it, and choose the verses that you want to resound in you.

If you only knew the love that God has for you, if you were to discover what He wants to give you...

Si conocieras como te amo , si conocieras como te amo, dejarías de vivir, sin amor.

Si conocieras como te amo, si conocieras como te amo, dejarías de mendigar cualquier amor.

Si conocieras como te amo, como te amo, serías más feliz.

Si conocieras como te busco, si conocieras como te busco, dejarías que te alcanzara mi voz.

Si conocieras como te busco, si conocieras como te busco , dejarías que te hablara el corazón .

Si conocieras como te busco, como te busco, escucharías más mi voz.

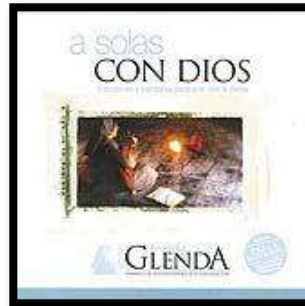
Si conocieras como te sueño, me preguntaría lo que espero de ti, si conocieras como te sueño, buscaría lo que he pensado para ti...

Si conocieras como te sueño, como te sueño, pensarás más en mí.

6 MY DESIRE: TRUE LOVE

5

Where Is the Source of Love?



The next song begins with an introduction about the love of a dating couple and the gift that they give to each other.

We have already taken a look at the path of courtship and marriage.

But love also takes on a concrete form in consecrated life and the priesthood!

John didn't know what to give his girlfriend for her birthday. Finally, he decided to make her a heart with a hole in the middle out of a piece of cork.



"What does this mean?", the girl asked him. Looking at her with great tenderness, he replied:

"Rachel, you and I love each other a lot, but, in your heart and my heart there will always be a hole, an empty space, a loneliness, that only the Love of God can completely fill".

Thank you for satisfying my heart in Jesus!

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5

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Tú Señor, me has seducido y yo me dejé, me has forzado y has sido más fuerte, más fuerte que yo.

Pero ves Señor, ahora soy motivo de risa todo el día se burlan de mi porque yo, ¡me he enamorado de Ti!

¡Tú me has seducido Señor!, y yo me dejé seducir, me has forzado y has sido más fuerte que yo ahora soy sólo para Ti.

Ya ves Señor, tu palabra ha sido humillación y sacrificios, por eso, resolví no hablar más en Tu Nombre ni volverte a mencionar, pero había en mí como un fuego ardiente en mi corazón, prendido a mis entrañas y aunque ahogarlo yo quería no podía contenerlo.

¡Tú me has fascinado Jesús! y yo me dejé enamorar he luchado contra ti, contra todo lo que siento!

¡Pero has vencido Tú!,
¡Pero, has vencido Tú!, ¡Tú!

Pick out the phrases that you would like to resound within you.

Many times we resist the call of the Lord. He doesn't concentrate on our weakness or our disorder. He only wants to give us his LOVE and for us to freely respond to his love: a limited love that responds to a love without limits. His is a love that:

- IS FAITHFUL
- ENDURES FOREVER
- IS WELCOMING
- DONATES
- FORGIVES
- REBUILDS
- SAVES

Do you want this for yourself?

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5

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Having recognized love as a gift, the response to this call arises.

Truly, love is the response to a **FIRST LOVE**, a call that we all have, a vocation to love.

But love bears the name of a **PERSON**. We don't love in general; rather, love becomes concrete:

In the love that Peter and Kate have for each other.

In the love between Michael and Lucy.

In Sister Mary of the Child Jesus.

In Mother Mary Cecelia.

In Sister Elizabeth.

In Brother Gregory.

In Father Mark.

In the priest Abraham.

In St. John Paul II and in St. John XXIII.

This vocation to love can be made concrete in marriage and in the priesthood or consecrated life.

What is my answer?

To whom do I want to open the door of my tent?



With whom?

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BUILDING UP LOVE



MY DESIRE: **TRUE LOVE**

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Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal blue lines.

MY DESIRE: **TRUE LOVE**



**What should I take
in my backpack?**

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