

It's the end of the world! (laughter) I have always wanted to say that, doom and gloom. (more laughter)

Pope Francis in the book, "Love and Mercy" shares a story of as a young priest, the then Father Bergoglio having a parishioner who was struggling. She turned to prostitution and everyone at church was mean to her. They said, "she didn't belong here." I personally wonder, how they know what she does, but that's another issue.

The woman kept coming to mass, mainly because they had food for her children and one reason above all. Father Bergoglio was nice to her, every time, he said, "Como esta señora?" which means, how are you mam, mrs. Eventually, the woman changed her ways and cried to Father Bergoglio, the now pope. She said, "thank you for always calling me, "Señora". While everyone else called me nothing, worthless, bad names, you called me what I am, a person worthy of God.

The woman at the well is a similar story but involves God himself. The woman at the well has five husbands and was probably called every bad name you can think of. Believe it or not, sinners, know what they are doing wrong. They don't need to be shamed any more. What makes this story so special is that God is there with that woman. With shame, she goes at noon, when no one gets water. One goes to a well, in the morning or evening when it's cold, not when it is at the warmest time. But she goes, when no one is there, so one will see her, judge her. Yet, God forgives her, gives her dignity back. She is worthy of God.

Insert any person you hate, struggle to pray for, and put them in the well. They are the woman in the well, struggling and looking for God. At this scary moment in our lives there is a lot of fear. Blaming others, the people who took all the toilet paper.

Of topic but a parishioner told me that at Shanghai restaurant, the local Chinese restaurant in West Liberty, they put up a sign recently, "We are still open!" I presume they have lost much business. This is because of the fear that Chinese food gets you Corona! Sorry to say this but Chinese food is not made in China, it probably wouldn't even be considered Chinese food in China. Yet their business is hurting. I get no money from their sales. However, look at what our fear is doing to Chinese establishments. According to a survey, thirty eight percent of Americans will not drink a Corona beer do to its name. This is why Corona is offering 15 million to change its name to the bud light virus.

We need to give people their dignity back, like the Lord did at the well for the woman, like Pope Francis did for the woman and like we should as well.