

# Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

## Are you listening?

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Peter, James, and John went up on a mountain with Jesus, where they saw him in his glory. As they fell prostrate in fear, Jesus touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” (Mt 17:5) May we, too, set aside our fear, listen, and follow the Lord.

### *Impact this month*

**Listen** to God in **prayer**

**Listen** through **fasting**, in order to be more attentive to your hunger for God

**Listen** by **giving** to those who are in need

**Listen** by **being attentive** to your heart and mind throughout this season

**Eve and Adam didn't listen.** They had everything they needed in the garden, most especially, a loving relationship with their Creator God. Yet, they were blind to their blessings and decided they wanted more, not even knowing what “more” might be. Others we hear about in the Sunday readings this month did listen: Abram, Samuel, Moses; the disciples, the Samaritan woman and her townsfolk; the man who was given sight: all listened and were forever changed. Their thirst was quenched; blindness gave way to sight; in listening, they encountered the living God.

**The season of Lent calls us to listen more intently to the voice of the Lord.** In Lent, we resolve to change our minds and hearts in order to more fully follow Jesus. Like the disciples on the mountain, we may be afraid to open ourselves to God. We wonder, what changes might we need to make? What temptations do we need to turn away from? What blessings are we blind to? During Lent, we are invited to risk what we know, allowing the Lord to lead us into an unknown and yet surely life-giving future. God desires what is best for us and for all. We really do not need to fear!

**Jesus went to the disciples on the mountain and touched them.** He approached the woman at the well, and the man whose sight he restored. Jesus reaches out to us as well. All we have to do is set aside our fear, listen, and follow him. **Are you listening?**



## Is something in the way? Let it go.

The woman at the well unexpectedly met Jesus. He saw beyond her isolation and drew her into a profound dialogue. Jesus named the very things that separated her from others. The woman did not allow herself to be weighed down by her past, but rather, opened herself to an encounter, to understanding, to belief, to conversion. She was so moved by her experience that she left her water jar behind and ran to the village to share the good news.



### What is your water jar?

“In this Gospel passage we likewise find the impetus to “leave behind our water jar”, the symbol of everything that is seemingly important, but loses all its value before the “love of God”. We all have one, or more than one! I ask you, and myself: “What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?” Let us set it aside a little and with our hearts; let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord.” — Pope Francis, March 23, 2014

## Seeing and Being Seen

**This Lent, let us allow ourselves to be seen by God.** The disciples were themselves with Jesus. They did not hide their fear, confusion, and questions as they walked and talked with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem. The woman at the well and man who was born blind did not keep the complicated parts of their lives from the Lord. They did not hide their isolation and desire to be accepted by others from his loving sight.

**Sometimes, we are spiritually blind.** We fail to see God’s presence and action in our lives, and we do not see

ourselves clearly. Jesus sees beyond our limitations, weakness, and sinfulness, and helps us see God’s love and powerful mercy.



**Held in God’s loving sight,** the messy situations, conflicts, fatigue, and persistent longing for peace in our lives and world may not seem quite so impossible to resolve. When we look at life with the assurance that God is with us through it all, our spiritual blindness is healed. Like the man who was born blind, our eyes will be opened to God’s ways. The situations may remain, but our view of them changes. In turning our sight toward God during Lent, we are given clearer vision for the future.

**How have you seen God at work recently? How will you allow yourself to be seen by God this Lenten season?**