

**Thought for the Week**  
**15th March 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Lent (A)**

In describing today's Gospel reading, Pope Benedict XVI compares the Samaritan woman to, "*the existential dissatisfaction of the one who does not find what he seeks*".

This quote stood out to me as it resembles the familiar disappointment of our expectations not matching reality; universally experienced, yet totally subjective - ranging from disappointment in our sports teams to our own personal relationships.

Looking at this from a religious perspective, we can see how our own expectations of God can shape our outlook on life, and fitting trust into the equation becomes a lot more difficult.

The most common topics when discussing Christianity are questioning the intentions and or existence of God: If God exists, why is there suffering? If God is all-loving, why are people sent to hell? If God is all-hearing, why didn't I get what I prayed for? It is easy to get wrapped up in the logistics and trivial sides of Christianity, and ask questions that ultimately no-one knows the answers to, but doesn't this defeat the purpose of faith?

Understanding religion is as easy as a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there. So, bearing this in mind, the message I take from this week's readings is to have trust. Like the Samaritan woman, we find trust to be difficult when we don't always understand the reasoning behind some events, or the purpose of the outcome. But, it is only from trust that faith can be built, and peace within ourselves, each other and God can be accomplished.

Chimba Mubanga