

Many have come proclaiming that they had the one secret that satisfied, and always men are ready to be led astray, so thirsty are they. But above all the false prophets there stands this prophet, Jesus, and makes proclamation of the water that quenches the thirst of men's craving spirits once and forever.

"Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come all the way hither to draw," v. 15. There are few more pathetic statements to be found in the Bible or out of it, than this poor woman's cry. She knew that the stranger was speaking of something other than natural water, that satisfies the thirst of the body; but she still uses the figure. She had drunk deeply of earth's pleasures, and had found the streams but muddy, and now she craved with great desire the water that would satisfy.

As we study this lesson to-day, let us forget, for the moment, the Samaritan woman by the well, and realize that Christ is speaking to us, even as He spoke to her. He is ready to bestow upon us the gift that is beyond price. It matters not what the figure may be under which He presents it. There is no better expression of what it is than "This is life eternal, to know God, and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent." (See John 17: 3.) We may, like this poor woman, have been offenders against the laws of human society, or we may be perfectly reputable in character, but, whatever our reputation among men, we cannot know peace unless it comes to us through Jesus Christ, who is the manifestation of God, and who bestows eternal life, and so brings God's peace within our souls.

TOPICS FOR BRIEF PAPERS

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous. Only one topic should be given to each scholar. Sometimes all may be asked to take the same topic. The papers to be read out in the class.)

1. The enmity between Jews and Samaritans, how it arose, and to what lengths it was carried.
2. Outline the whole story, vs. 5-42.
3. Christ's cure for thirst.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

WE NEED
CHRIST GIVES

LIVING WATER

IT SATISFIES

