

woman, for only in Christian lands has woman her true place. **The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans**; John's words, not the woman's. The ill-feeling date back to the time of Nehemiah, Neh. 4:1, 2. **If thou knowest the gift of God**; the gift of his Son, including all that we need, which is for Jew and Samaritan alike ("whosoever," ch. 3:16). **And who it is.** Had she known this, she would have been sure of his sympathy and help. **Thou wouldest have asked**; and to ask is to receive, Matt. 7:7. **Living (spring) water**; blessings that satisfy the soul, as spring water satisfies thirst.

11, 12. The woman is puzzled. Procure living water, independently of the well!—why, even Jacob, our great ancestor, could not do that! Is this stranger greater than... Jacob?

III. **JESUS' PROMISE.**—13, 14. This water; of Jacob's well. It had two defects: (1) It satisfied thirst only for a time (shall thirst again). (2) It was a weary distance from the women's home. **The water that I shall give.** The pardon, peace, joy, that Jesus gives, satisfy the soul forever (shall never thirst). Then, they are always at hand (shall be in him). **Springing up into everlasting life.** Springs of happiness here, and in heaven a great ocean—what a wonderful promise! What gladness comes to us, as to this woman and her countrymen, when we, like them, accept it and him who makes it, vs. 29, 39, 42.

Vs. 15-23 continue the conversation between the Saviour and the woman.

IV. **JESUS' TEACHING.**—24-26. Worship... in spirit; independently of particular places or forms or ceremonies. **Truth**; with reality and intelligence. **Father seeketh**; and therefore we are encouraged to seek him. **God is a Spirit**; and so is not confined to special places, but speaks and is spoken to everywhere, if the heart is pure and obedient. **I know that Messiah cometh.** From many passages in the Books of Moses (especially Deut. 18:15), and from their knowledge of Jewish ideas, the Samaritans had been led to expect the coming of the Messiah. **Tell us all things.** What she needed to be told most of all was how she might be saved from her sins. **I... am he.** The woman had been brought face to face with her sin; now she is face to face with her Saviour.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

The lesson takes us to the valley between Mts. Ebal and Gerizim, on the highway through Samaria from Judea to Galilee. At the foot of Mt. Gerizim is **Jacob's WELL**, now 70 feet deep and lined with rough masonry. Nearly a mile from Jacob's Well, at the

foot of Mt. Ebal, is the modern village of Askar. It is generally believed that this is the ancient SYCHAR.

LESSON QUESTIONS

5, 6 Through what district was Jesus traveling? Where did he rest?

7, 8 What person came thither? What did Jesus ask of her? What did he promise to give her?

9-12 Explain the relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Who were commanded to preach the gospel in Samaria? (Acts 1:8.) Who did so? (Acts 8:5.)

13, 14 What defects had the water from Jacob's well? To whom is the "water of life" offered? (Rev. 22:17.) On what terms?

24-26 By what name does Jesus call God? What feelings, therefore, enter into his children's worship? Explain, "Salvation is of the Jews." What is the real nature of God? Who did Jesus tell the woman he was?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it ever right to despise others?
2. Are there any nations which are superior to others?

A PRAYER

O thou who hast set us the example of unselfish toil, make us laborers for thee. Teach us how to get the most out of life by trying to enlarge life for some one else. Dwell in us by thy Spirit, that all we say and do may be to thy glory. Bless to-day those who are preaching and teaching in foreign lands, and give us grace to hold up their hands by our prayers and by our gifts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—*That the water of life is for all.*

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 87. *What is repentance unto life?* A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

The Question on Missions—6. Tell about the outdoor dispensary at the hospital. For about two hours every forenoon a missionary doctor, with three Chinese assistants, sees patients who come from outside the hospital. The average attendance is a little over 100. A half-hour service is held before the treatment begins, and a Bible woman and an evangelist talk to the patients in the waiting room and distribute Christian literature.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What did Jesus mean by the living water?.....

2. What kind of worship does God require?.....

SIGN NAME HERE.....