

Lesson VI.

JESUS AND THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA

February 9, 1908

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Jesus left Jerusalem and went to carry on His work as a Teacher, in the country parts of Judea, ch. 3: 22. A dispute arose between John's disciples and the Jews, probably as to whether Jesus' baptism (ch. 4: 1) or the Baptist's—had the greater power to cleanse from sin. When John's disciples refer the question to him, he answers them by bearing noble testimony to the greatness of Jesus, ch. 3: 25-36.

GOLDEN TEXT—If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.—John 7: 37.

Memorize vs. 23, 24. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 4: 19-29. Study John 4: 1-42.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jeru'salem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Je'sus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ¹ye shall neither in this mountain, nor ²yet at Jeru'salem, ³worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ⁴ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is ⁵of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and ⁶in truth: for ⁷the Father ⁸seeketh such to worship him.

Revised Version—¹Omit ye shall; ²in; ³shall ye; ⁴that which ye know not; we worship that which we know; ⁵from; ⁶Omit in; ⁷such doth; ⁸seek to be his worshippers; ⁹Omit him; ¹⁰Messiah; ¹¹declare unto; ¹²they; ¹³was speaking with a woman; ¹⁴speakest; ¹⁵So the woman; ¹⁶away; ¹⁷can this be.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jesus and the woman of Samaria, John 4: 1-15. T.—Jesus and the woman of Samaria, John 4: 16-30. W.—Jesus and the woman of Samaria, John 4: 31-42. Th.—The Samaritans, 2 Kgs. 17: 24-34. F.—Wells of salvation, Isa. 12. S.—Without price, Isa. 55: 1-7. S.—"Whosoever will." Rev. 22: 1-7; 17-21.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Jesus, in order to avoid giving offence by any seeming rivalry towards John the Baptist, left Judea, with His disciples. The goal of His journey was Galilee. The usual route from Judea to Galilee was through Perea, to avoid Samaria (see below on vs. 19-21). But Jesus determined to go through Samaria. His grace overleaps the boundaries between jealous peoples. On the journey, He comes to Jacob's well. As He rested there, while His disciples were away buying food in the near-by town, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus asked of her a drink, and in the conversation that followed, offered to her the living water, vs. 1-18.

I. THE TRUE WORSHIP—19-21. Sir; a title of respect. The woman had been deeply impressed by Jesus' words and manner. Thou art a prophet; because He had told her of her past life, vs. 16-18. Our fathers; ancestors. The Samaritans were a mixed population, with a mixed religion (see 2 Kgs. 17: 24-41). They claimed to be true Israelites, and professed to keep the laws of Moses; but there was bitter hatred between them and the people of Judea. Worshipped in this mountain; pointing to Mount Gerizim, at the foot of which was Jacob's well. A temple had been built on the mountain. In Jerusalem; where the temple of the Jews stood.

22-24. Believe me; words introducing a statement of great importance. The hour; the time of true gospel worship, in which place and form are nothing, and spirit is everything. Neither . . . this mountain . . . nor . . . Jerusalem. Worship may be offered wherever there is a loving, trustful heart. Worship the Father. This blessed name settles all questions about worship. The true child will give to the Father love, reverence, obedience—and

24 God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship ⁹him in spirit and ¹⁰in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that ¹⁰Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will ¹¹tell us all things.

26 Je'sus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

27 And upon this came his disciples, and ¹²marvelled that he ¹³talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why ¹⁴talkest thou with her?

28 ¹⁵The woman then left her waterpot, and went ¹⁶her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: ¹⁷is not this the Christ?

these make up real worship—not in this place or that alone, but everywhere and always. Ye know not, etc. Because they rejected all of the Old Testament, except the Five Books of Moses, the Samaritans did

not know God as He had revealed Himself in the history of Israel after their settlement in Canaan. Salvation is of the Jews. Theirs were the ancient promises, and from their race the Christ was to spring. 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.



JEWISH WATERPOTS

Of earthenware, such as the one which woman of Samaria brought to carry water from Jacob's well. II. THE MESSIAH.—25-29. I know that Messias 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.