

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 27.] LESSON V. [May 2,

## JESUS AT THE WELL.

John 4. 5-26. Commit vs. 23-26.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.—John 4. 24.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus satisfies every thirst of the soul.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. John 3. 19-36. Tu. John 4. 1-26. W. John 7. 37-39. Th. Isa. 55. 1-13. F. Isa. 41. 17; Jer. 2. 13. Sa. Ex. 20. 3-11. Su. Ps. 42.1; Rev. 22. 1, 2.

TIME.—December, A.D. 27. About 8 months after the last lesson.

PLACE.—Jacob's well at Sychar, a part of the ancient Shechem, at the foot of Mount Gerizim. The well was one-half a mile from Sychar, and two miles from Shechem, between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim in Samaria.

INTERVENING HISTORY.—Soon after the interview with Nicodemus in our last lesson, Jesus left the city of Jerusalem and spent several months in Judea teaching and baptizing through his disciples. The crowds left John and came to Jesus, which gave occasion for a further testimony of the Baptist to Jesus. In December Jesus left Judea to go to Galilee, and in passing through Samaria on his way came to Jacob's well, the scene of to-day's lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—5. *Jacob gave*—Gen. 48 22; 6. *Jacob's well*—9 feet in diameter, 105 feet deep, formerly; now, 75 feet; dug in solid rock. *Sixth hour*—Probably 6 o'clock in the evening, Roman reckoning; by Jewish reckoning it would be 12 o'clock, sixth hour from sunrise. But John was writing in Ephesus among Romans. 8. *Meat*—Food. 9. *Jews have no dealings with Samaritans*—No free social intercourse, but would buy and sell. They had rival forms of religion, rival temples. The Samaritans accepted only the five books of Moses as their Bible, and were partly descended from heathen ancestors (2 Kings 17. 6, 23, 24). 10. *Living water*—Flowing as from a fountain. The Holy Spirit, bestowing spiritual life (John 7. 37). 13, 14. *Thirst, never thirst*—Every person is full of desires, bodily, mental, spiritual. The world cannot satisfy the soul. Jesus Christ sanctifies the natural desires, and satisfies the spiritual, the longing for happiness, for worthy life, for friendship, for forgiveness, for eternal life, for God. 16. *Go, call*—Said in order to convince her of sin, that she might seek the living water. 20. *Our fathers, etc.*—A question of great interest to her. The Samaritan temple was on Gerizim close by. 22. *Ye worship, etc.*—That which ye know not. They accepted only a part of the Bible, and therefore their knowledge of God was imperfect. *Salvation of the Jews*—Promised in their Bible, and the Messiah was to be descended from them and born among them.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Intervening history.—The Samaritans.—Jacob's well.—Living water.—The place of worship.—God our Father.—Worshipping in spirit and in truth.—Salvation is of the Jews.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Jesus in our last lesson? With whom did he have a long conversation? Where did he go after that? (3. 22) How long did he remain there? Doing what? Why did he leave? (4. 1-3.) For what place? At what season of the year?

## SUBJECT: THE WATERS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

I. THE THIRSTY ONE (vs. 5. 9).—To what place did Jesus come on his way to Galilee? What can you tell about Jacob's well? Why did Jesus stop there? What can you learn about Jesus' human nature from his becoming weary? What time of the day was it? Who met him there? What do you know of her character? What favour did Jesus ask of her? Why? What did she reply? Who were the Samaritans? Why did they have no dealings with the Jews?

II. THE WATER OF LIFE. (vs. 10-15).—What was Jesus' reply to the woman? Did she understand him? (vs. 11, 12.) How did Jesus further describe the living water? Why is it called living water? What did he mean by this living water? (John 7. 37-39.)

What will it do for us? In what respects is the Gospel like water (as free, abundant, cleansing, etc.)?

III. PREPARING THE THIRSTY TO RECEIVE IT (vs. 16-18).—What did Jesus say to her then? How would this convict her of sin and need? Why must we feel our needs before we will seek the living water? (Rev. 3. 17.) Have you sought this living water?

IV. TRUE WORSHIP (vs. 19-26).—What question did the woman now ask Jesus? Why was it important to her? What was the difference between the Samaritans and the Jews? Whom did Jesus say we must worship? In what place? In what way? What is worship? What is it to worship in spirit and in truth? What reason is given? (v. 24.)

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. We may be weary in Christian work, but not of it.
2. Christian service may refresh our weary bodies.
3. We should take every opportunity of doing good.
4. Scot, race, social position, rivalries, should never keep us from kindly service or religious help.
5. Man is full of thirsts for earthly good, happiness, forgiveness, larger life, friendship, eternal life, God.
6. This world cannot satisfy these thirsts. (See Solomon's experience in Ecclesiastes.)
7. Jesus Christ satisfies every thirst.
8. The Gospel is like living waters,—refreshing, abundant, free, cleansing.
9. True worship is sincere, spiritual, of the true God, loving, obedient.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Where did Jesus go after his conversation with Nicodemus? ANS. He spent several months teaching and baptizing in Judea.
2. Whom did he meet on the way to Galilee? ANS. A woman of Samaria at Jacob's well.
3. What did Jesus teach her there about the Gospel? (Repeat vs. 13, 14.)
4. What did he teach her about true worship? (Repeat vs. 23, 24.)

A.D. 27.] LESSON VI. [May 9,

## SOWING AND REAPING.

John 4. 27-42. Commit vs. —.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

One soweth, and another reapeth.—John 4. 37.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. John 4. 27-42. Tu. Ps. 126. 1-6. W. Mark 4. 1-20. Th. Luke 10. 1-11. F. 1 Cor. 3. 5-15. Sa. 2. Cor. 9-6; Gal. 6. 7-10. Su. James 5. 14-20.

TIME.—December: A.D. 27. The same day with the last lesson.

PLACE.—Jacob's well, half a mile from Sychar in Samaria.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—To-day's lesson follows close upon our last. On his way to Galilee Jesus passed through Samaria, and resting at Jacob's well while his disciples went on to Sychar to buy some food, he had a conversation on the living water with a Samaritan woman, who had come to the well for water. Just as he had announced himself as the Messiah his disciples returned with the food from the city, and our lesson for to-day begins.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—27. *Marvelled*—Because Rabbis were not accustomed to give their learning in public to women, because she was a Samaritan, and because of the evident interest the Lord took in her welfare. 28. *Waterpots*—The same word as is used for the waterpots at the marriage in Cana (2. 7). 32. *Meat that ye know not of*—The spiritual life God gave him in his work, and the refreshment that came from helping the needy and serving God. 35. *Say ye not, four months, etc.*—Four months from that time. The harvest was in April. This time was therefore December; the sowing was a month or two earlier. *Lift up your eyes*—Doubtless pointing to the Samaritans who were approaching from Sychar to learn from him. 36. *Fruit unto life eternal*—The result was the eternal salvation of others, and nobler and better life for themselves. This was their wages. 38. *I sent you, etc.*—Jesus had sown in their absence; now they were to reap. So it would be all through their lives. Prophets of old, John the Baptist, and Jesus himself, sowed the seed that grew into the church of God.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Review of last lesson.—Faith through the testimony of others.—Faith through our own experience of the truth (v. 34).—The spiritual harvest.—Sowers and reapers rejoicing together.—Fruit unto eternal life.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Jesus going in our last lesson? At what season of the year? Where did he rest? With whom did he have a long conversation? On what subject?

## SUBJECT: SOWING AND REAPING.

I. FIRST SOWING.—*Personal Invitations to Christ* (vs. 27-29).—Where were Jesus' disciples during his conversation? At what did they marvel on their return? Why? What did the Samaritan woman now do? What did she tell her fellow-townsmen? Why these rather than strangers? What can you do in inviting men to Jesus?

FIRST REAPING.—What was the effect of her invitation? Were they wise in going to Jesus to learn more? What does Paul say about sowing and reaping? (Gal. 6. 7, 8; 2 Cor. 9. 6.) What is said in the Psalms? (Ps. 126. 5, 6.)

II. SECOND SOWING.—*Working for Christ* (vs. 31-34).—What did Jesus reply when asked to eat the food bought by his disciples? What was the food "that they knew not"? Can we have that food? Does working for Christ refresh our bodies?

SECOND REAPING (vs. 35-38).—How long was it before the harvest? How near was the spiritual harvest? What were the "fields white to the harvest"? What are the "wages" of those that reap? What is "the fruit unto eternal life"? Who had sown the harvest the disciples were to reap?

III. THIRD SOWING.—*Faith* (vs. 39, 40).—Why did the Samaritans believe on Jesus? Was this a good foundation for faith? What two things did it lead them to do? (vs. 30, 40.)

THIRD REAPING (vs. 41, 42).—How long did Jesus remain at Sychar? What was he probably doing during this time? What two results of their faith do we see? (vs. 40, 41.) Why did they believe now? What did they believe?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Those that sow shall reap what they sow.
2. Only by sowing good seed can there be a harvest of good.
3. Invite all you can, especially those nearest you, to come to Christ.
4. God feeds our spirits through work for him and our fellow-men.
5. The harvest of souls is always ready to be gathered.
6. A little faith well used leads to greater faith and brings us into communion with Jesus.
7. Let us place our faith more and more on the foundation of personal acquaintance with Jesus and his Gospel.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

5. What did the Samaritan woman do when she had found the Saviour? ANS. She went to her townsmen and invited them to go to Jesus.
6. What does Jesus say was his food? ANS. (Repeat v. 34.)
7. When is the spiritual harvest? ANS. (Repeat v. 35.)
8. What is the reward of those who sow and reap this harvest? ANS. (Repeat v. 36.)
9. What harvest was gathered during the two days at Sychar? ANS. Many of the Samaritans became Christians.

"It is the duty of the government to make it easy for the people to do right, and difficult for the people to do wrong."—Gladstone.

THE use of tobacco is bad, but the smoking of cigarettes is worse. Physicians are speaking out with emphasis in condemnation of the practice. A prominent physician of Athens, Ga., says that "he has frequently of late been called in to see young boys suffering with diseased throats, and every case can be traced to cigarette smoking." Many of the youths, he says, are in a serious condition, as they have been poisoned with arsenic contained in the wrappers. This matter should have the proper attention of all parents.—*Pittsburg Advocate*.

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