

WAS THE LORD CHRIST A MISSIONARY?

Yes, in the strictest letter. One of the noblest the world ever knew, one act of missionary work with which the world is familiar, was His mission from Judea to Gallilee, but He must needs go through Samaria. And why, in order to reach and save one lost soul. Brethren, for a moment let us look at the divine Master, He is on His journey; He looked across the hot burning desert, He knew exactly what he was doing, He saw an opportunity to preach to one solitary soul, and he walked three or four long hours, under the burning sun, and over the hot sand, in order to reach one lost soul; and tell it of salvation and of heaven.

Brethren, when discouragement affronts you, adversity assails you, temptations attack you, and you feel like shrinking, think of your Master, and call on Him, consider "what a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear." From His journey He is weary, He sits at the well, being athirst He awaits the approach of the woman to draw water, He always waits for the poor sinner, that he may have a personal interview with them, He makes the first advance, Christ said, "I am weary, give me to drink," that was to remove her prejudices, in order to give her the water of life, her better nature is reached, and she says, "how is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." Wisely are her prejudices removed. She asks him a question, her attention is arrested, her mind enlightened, and now, he reveals himself to her, and a Godlike and friendly interview is held.

His reply, If thou knowest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked him, and he would have given thee living water. The curiosity of the woman is aroused, she wonders who this missionary can be; and is it a wonder brethren, for never man spake like He. His commanding tone of voice was sufficient to banish all disguise, and doubt, that He was the Messiah to them that believeth. She answers:—I know the Messiah cometh which is called Christ, when He is come, He will tell us all things. Then the Lord Christ reveals Himself, as He never before did to mortal, He never before even told His disciples, He says, I that speak unto thee am He: wonderful revelation, He passes by the wise, and revealeth himself unto babes, to the poor, trembling, broken-hearted sinners, He is a friend. This woman that went to the well a poor miserable undone sinner, went back rejoicing with a gladdened heart; and became the first female home missionary the world ever had. She resolves with her whole heart, that she will make it known to all around her, she leaves her water-pot, hastens into the town, and goes from door to door, the whole country is aroused: