

bring gifts to keep the deity friendly, and the people generally regard their worship as most successful when they so humor him that he leaves them alone altogether. In opposition to this pitiful semblance of worship, contrast the grandeur of this conception brought out in the Golden Text. To Jesus, God was spirit or life, bearing somewhat the same relationship to the universe that our soul does to our body. "In him we live, and move, and have our being." He touched not only one mountain top, but lived in every beauty of nature, in every form of life. He sat by the well as he never dwelt in Gerizim, and spoke through human lips as never through oracle or ancient shrine. He came nearer to the woman of Sychar than to any priest of old. His worship is not confined to any locality, and pilgrimages are unnecessary. His temple is the

world, the holy of holies is the spirit of man. No sacrifice or incense is required; for his worship is in truth and with the understanding. The best way to adore him is to recognize the things in nature and in human life that are the expressions of his Spirit, and to show the proper respect for them.

Some conclude from all this that any church building is unnecessary; that they can find God better on the Sabbath Day in the open country, and in good reading than at church. The corrective answer to all this is, that the church's function is not to furnish us with an exclusive place of worship, but to teach us how we can worship God always and everywhere. If it were not for the common worship of the Christian church from Sabbath to Sabbath, no one would have such spiritual views, or be capable of such an argument.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

By Rev. M. B. Davidson, M.A., Galt, Ont.

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or the PATHFINDER.

Call attention to the underlying idea of worship, the idea of reverence or honor. It was in former times used of honor paid to men, as well as of honor paid to God. Have some one read Luke 14 : 10 in the Authorized Version. But the word is commonly used now to refer to the reverence and honor paid to God, especially in public gatherings in church. Point out that Christian worship was at first a development from the Jewish worship of the synagogue. What was Jesus' habit in regard to the worship in the synagogue? See Luke 4 : 16. Is there any lesson for us in this custom of Jesus? Did Jesus approve of everything in the spirit and practice of the synagogue worship? Now turn to the scripture passage for to-day.

1. *The divine interest in human need*, vs. 1-10. While this paragraph does not contain any teaching of Jesus in regard to worship, it nevertheless does contain that which encourages us to worship. Point out that all worship presupposes an approach of man to God and a corresponding approach of God to man. Are we likely to attempt worship unless we have some assurance of the divine interest in our need? What lesson do these

verses teach us as to the interest which Christ, the supreme revealer of God, has in human need? Did he allow his weariness to interfere with his concern for this woman who needed him? What suggestion is there in v. 10 as to the readiness of God to answer the need of men?

2. *Right and wrong ideas of worship*, vs. 19-24. Was the woman trying to turn the conversation from the subject of her own sin to a more general subject? Whether this is so, or not, Jesus takes the opportunity of speaking his "most significant utterance on the subject of worship." What was the problem which the woman put to Jesus? Point out that, in the past, it had been practically taken for granted that worship should be definitely associated with some sacred place. What has Jesus to say about the relative merits of Samaritan and Jewish worship in the past? What picture does he draw of the true worship of the future? What is involved in saying that God is a Spirit? What bearing does it have upon the question of where he ought to be worshiped? Have the members of the class tell in their own words what it means to worship God (a) in spirit, and (b) in truth.