

Jesus at the Well.

John 4: 5-26.

THE Holy Land was divided into three parts. On the north was Galilee, where Jesus was brought up. On the south, Judea, in which was Jerusalem, with the temple. In the middle, Samaria. The people of Samaria and Judea hated, and would not sleep, nor eat with, nor speak with each other in ordinary conversation. A Jew might not even drink from a Samaritan's cup, though they bought and sold to each other. The Jews were very proud of their beautiful temple in Jerusalem, but the Samaritans never went there to worship. They had a temple of their own on *Mt. Gerizim*. Once, as Jesus and his disciples were going from Judea into Galilee, they passed through Samaria. They came to a beautiful spot near the city of Sychar (*v. 5*), in Samaria? There was a well of cool water, which was called Jacob's well, because, many years before, Jacob had it dug out, that he and his children and cattle might have plenty of water. Jesus was weary, and sat on the broad stone curb of the well to rest, while His disciples walked on into the city to buy food. The well was too deep to reach the water unless a bucket or pitcher was let down by a rope. So tired and thirsty as Jesus was. He sat down by the well. Very soon a woman came to the well with a pail to fetch water; then Jesus said to her "Give Me to drink."

She was astonished that a Jew should ask her for a drink, but she was more so when He said that He was able to give her a better kind of water. A water which would so satisfy that the person who drank it would never thirst. See Jesus tired and hungry, sitting on the well, and the woman listening eagerly while He tells her of the *living water* that can satisfy the thirst of the soul, Do you know what *soul-thirst* is? Are you not always wanting something more and better than you have? That is a thirst nothing in the world can quench; nothing but the water of life, the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us, can fill our souls with joy and peace and gladness.

Should you like to be happy? I know you would. Then go to Jesus.

Sowing and Reaping.

John 4: 27-42.

THE title of the lesson, the Golden Text, the Central Truth, are all about sowing and reaping. Perhaps you may wonder what they have to do with Jesus talking with a woman at a well. But there are other kinds of seed besides those a man casts into the ground. Did you ever hear of *words* being seeds, and bearing fruit? For instance, if you sow kind, loving words, will they not make love grow in the heart of the one to whom you speak them? Now I think you see what is meant by such sowing. So think over the words of Jesus to the woman. He had been telling her about the water of life, until she wanted it so much that she asked, "Give me this water." And that wish of hers, that led to this earnest prayer, was His reaping. But even before that, the prophets who told of a Saviour to come, had sown the seed of hope and belief. These now sprang up, and led her to say the words of *v. 25*. Then Jesus sowed other seeds of faith by telling her plainly, "I am He."

When His disciples came back, they wondered to see Him talking to a woman, least

of all to a Samaritan. And again wondered still more that He did not care for the food they had brought. Ah! they could not understand how it was sweeter to Him to do the will of His Father than to eat of honey or the honey-comb. From where they stood they could see broad fields covered with tiny green blades of the grain, which would not be ripe for four months. But thronging on the roads from the city, Samaritans whom the woman was bringing to the Saviour of the world. This was her harvest

What kind of seed are you sowing? Remember that the harvest time will surely come and whatsoever you sow that shall you reap.

"OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

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