

## LIVING WATER

One day our Lord was very tired. He had been teaching the poor, and making the sick well, and He had walked a long way, and He wanted food. So He rested by an old well in Samaria while the disciples went to buy food. And while He sat there, a woman came from the town with a jug to draw water. And Jesus said to her, "Give Me some to drink." But she said, "How is it that you who are a Jew, ask me, who am a Samaritan, for drink? for the Jews will not have anything to do with the Samaritans." Jesus told her that if she had but known who it was that asked her for drink, she would have begged Him to give her living water. The woman said, "You have not anything to draw water in, and the well is deep—how can you get living water? Are you greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us this well?" But our Lord told her that they who drink the water of that well would be thirsty again; but that if she drank of the water He could give her, she would never thirst; it should give her life that would not end.

What did our Lord mean by living water? He meant God's grace—that is—God's help to make us good. The woman did not know what He meant, so she said, "Give me this water, that I may not have to come here to draw any more." Then our Lord told her of her sins; He knew that she was not good; He knew all her past life, and He told her about God, and that He must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. The woman said, "I know that Christ will come soon, and He will tell us all things."

Think how glad she must have been when our Lord said, "I that speak unto you, am He."

Just then His disciples came, and they wondered that He talked to a Samaritan woman. She left her water-pot, and went to tell her friends, and to ask them to come and see Jesus. The disciples said to our Lord, "Master, eat;" they had brought food; but Jesus cared more to do God's work than to eat, though He was hungry.

The woman brought many of the people of the town to our Lord, and they believed that He was Christ and begged that He would stay with them; and He did stay there for two days. How good our Lord was, to stay and teach these poor men, to whom the proud Jews would not even speak!

## THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS.

She had made up her mind to keep it to herself, though it was not a slight secret. Even the doctor's voice had faltered as he announced the verdict.

"It seems hard to say it—you are so young. But since you insist on knowing the whole truth, I think you will live about three months."

"There is no need of embittering these last three months for those who love me," Katharine murmured. The separation would be no less terrible for being dreaded night and day through those slow moving weeks. She would bear her burden alone. And in the meantime she had work to do.

The next day, after the doctor had given her his decision, Katharine wrote to an old friend whom she had not seen for years. They had loved each other dearly once, but a cloud had come between them. Katharine had not felt herself to blame and had refused to say a word that might lead to reconciliation. Now it was with a very different spirit that she wrote, and in a week's time an answer came, blotted with tears, filled with protestations of affection and entreaties for forgiveness.

As she lay awake one night thinking of the past and future, there came to her the memory of some unjust words she had spoken concerning one whom she knew but slightly. It was worth while, she thought, to try to repair the wrong she had done. It did not

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