

Lesson VI.

JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL

February 5, 1905

John 4 : 5-14. Study vs. 1-42. Commit to memory vs. 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Rev. 22 : 17.

5¹ Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9⁴ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, 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.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou

Revised Version—¹ So he cometh; ² by; ³ food; ⁴ The Samaritan woman therefore saith; ⁵ Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans); ⁶ sons; ⁷ Everyone that; ⁸ become; ⁹ unto eternal life.

knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—December, 27 A.D.; Sychar, the modern village of 'Askar, on the eastern slope of Mount Ebal, a little north of Jacob's well.

Connection—Jesus leaves Judaea, the southern province of Palestine, where He had spent about eight months, to go to Galilee, the northern province, and passing through the province of Samaria, lying between (vs. 1-4), meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

I. JESUS' NEED.—5, 6. Then; while passing through Samaria (see Connection). Cometh he (Jesus) to a city of Samaria; not a large place, but a little walled village. Sychar. See Time and Place. Near to the parcel (piece) of ground. Close to Sychar was Shechem, on the site specially gifted by Jacob to Joseph (see Gen. 33 : 18-20; 48 : 21, 22). Here Joseph was buried, Josh. 24 : 32. Jacob's well; not referred to in the Old Testament. Jesus... wearied. Thirst and thirsty—how well the Saviour knows our feelings! Sat thus on (beside) the well; not on a throne, though He was a King, but on the ground. The sixth hour; noon. Jesus had been walking for several hours under the hot Eastern sun.

7, 8. A woman of Samaria; like Rebecca (Gen. 24 : 15), her pitcher balanced on her head or shoulder. To draw water. There was a copious fountain nearer to Sychar, but the well water was better; or perhaps it was the well of the corn fields, dug for the use of the laborers therein. Give me to drink. Jesus, by expressing this human need, comes down to the woman's level, that He may lift her to a higher level. Disciples were gone away; probably having with them the "bucket" of skin usually carried by a travelling party. Had they been present they could have supplied Jesus' need. To buy meat; that is, food, not necessarily flesh.

II. JESUS' POWER.—9, 10. Thou... a Jew. Like the maid in the high priest's palace (Mark 14 : 70), the woman could tell a Jew by his dress, or dialect, or accent. Askest drink of... a woman of Samaria? The ordinary Jew would have doubly despised her, because she was a Samaritan, and because she was a woman, for only in Christian lands

has woman her true place. The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans; John's words, not the woman's. The ill-feeling dated back to the time of Nehemiah, Neh. 4 : 1, 2. The disciples of Jesus were Galileans, who were less strict than



Courtesy Underwood Stereoscopic Views

A Woman at Jacob's Well

Judeans; hence they bought food of the Samaritans. If thou knewest the gift of God; the gift of His Son, including all that we need, which is for Jew and Samaritan alike ("whosoever," ch. 3 : 16). And who it is. Had she known this, she would have been sure of His sympathy and help. Thou wouldest have asked; and to ask is to receive, Matt. 7 : 7. Living (spring) water; blessings that satisfy the soul, as spring water satisfies thirst.

11, 12. The woman is puzzled. Procure living water, independently of the well!—why, even Jacob, our great ancestor, could not do that! Is this stranger greater than... Jacob?

III. JESUS' PROMISE.—13, 14. This water;