

Lesson VI.

JESUS AND THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA February 9, 1908

John 4 : 19-29. Study John 4 : 1-42—Memory Verses, 23, 24.

Golden Text—If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.—John 7 : 37.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain ; and ye say, that in Jeru'salem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Je'sus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jeru'salem, worship the Fa'her.

22 Ye worship ye know not what : we know what we worship : for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth : for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit : and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ : when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman : yet no man said, What seekest thou ? or, then left her waterpot, and went her way into

Why talkest thou with her ? 28 The woman saith to the men, the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did : is not this the Christ ?

THE LESSON RETOLD

When the time came for Jesus and His disciples to go back from Jerusalem and Judea to Galilee with His disciples, He decided to go by way of Samaria—which was the nearest way. Jews did not often travel to Galilee by way of Samaria for the Jews and Samaritans had long hated one another.

But Jesus had a reason for going by way of Samaria. On the way they came near the city of Sychar. Jesus, being weary with His journey, sat down beside a well some distance from the city, called Jacob's well, while His disciples went to buy food. Soon a woman carrying a pitcher, came out of the city to draw water from the well. Now this woman was a great sinner. She did not love God, and had done many things to displease Him. Jesus knew this, and, as He talked with the woman, He told her of some of the wicked things she had done.

The woman was greatly surprised, and said, "Sir, I see that Thou art a prophet". And because she thought that He could tell her, she went on to ask Him a question

which the Jews and the Samaritans had long quarreled about—the proper place to worship. "We Samaritans", she said, "have always worshiped in Mt. Gerizim (which was near by where they were), and the Jews say all men ought to worship in the temple at Jerusalem." Then Jesus said to her, "The time is soon coming when people will not be required to come to this mountain, or to go to Jerusalem to worship God. You Samaritans worship God without truly knowing Him; but the Jews truly know Him, and from amongst them will come the Saviour of the world. The true way to worship God, is to worship Him with the heart.

The woman wondered much at Jesus' words. "When the Messiah comes", she said, "He will tell us all things." "That is indeed true", answered Jesus, "for I that speak unto you now am He".

The disciples had now returned, and they wondered greatly to see Jesus talking with a despised Samaritan woman; but none of them questioned Him why He did so, for