

how we were misguided and misinformed. He knows where, when, why and how we have succeeded or failed, but He will not use it against us, so long as life its term extends. Christ does not store up our misdeeds to fling them in front of us as obstacles to trip us up. That is Satan's way. Christ reveals us to ourselves, that we may see our need of a changed heart. He wants us to pray,

"And Ah! for a man to arise in me
That the man I am may cease to be".

Is not this the Christ? v. 29. There was a godly woman in Wales some years ago who claimed that Jesus must be Welsh. When asked for a reason, she said He Belongs to All always spoke to her in her own heart language, and no one but a Welshman could do that. All nations and kindreds and peoples might claim Him on the same ground. He is the Brother of all, the Kinsman of every human creature. Surely this power which He has of speaking to people everywhere in their own heart language is proof that He is the Christ.

The promise was, "All nations shall call Him blessed". He is King of men. He belongs to all humanity.

Lesson Points

Like a skilful physician, Jesus goes to the root of the disease, that the cure may be complete. v. 19.

"Where'er they seek thee, Thou art found,

And every spot is hallowed ground." v. 20.

Knowledge is the true handmaid of religion. v. 22.

Long before we thought of seeking God, He was seeking us. v. 23.

It will not suffice that we know the Saviour; we must yield ourselves to Him. vs. 25, 26.

"Weary satst Thou seeking me,
Diedst redeeming on⁴ the tree.

Can in vain such labor be?" v. 27.

Christ is the Light to search out our sins, as well as the Love to save us from them. vs. 28, 29.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Follow closely the order of events. Jesus had offered Himself as Messiah to the people of Jerusalem. There was not much genuine response. His miracles were attracting people who misunderstood the very first principles of His kingdom. He retired to the country districts of Judea, where He made many disciples, ch. 3 : 22. But the Pharisees stirred up jealousy, and therefore He departed into Galilee. In doing so He passed through Samaria, where His second great self-revelation was made. Ch. 4 deals with His work in Samaria, which is related only by John. The narrative includes the departure from Judea (vs. 1-3), the scenes at Jacob's Well (vs. 4-38), and the summary account of Jesus' intercourse with the Samaritans, vs. 39-42. The earlier parts should be carefully studied. The Lesson deals with the self-revelation of Jesus to the woman at the well. Note :

1. *The eager question*, vs. 19, 20. Trace

the steps in the woman's awakening interest up to this point. Observe her idea of a prophet (compare 1 Sam. 9 : 19; 2 Kgs. 5 : 26). Consider how Jesus must have impressed her thought, when she had this exalted view of Him. Her question was not merely an attempt to turn the conversation from an unpleasant subject, but expressed a problem of practical life. It may be that, weary of her sin, she saw in Jesus a new opportunity of discovering where God should be worshiped, that she might find Him.

2. *Jesus' revelation of Himself*, vs. 21-26. His answer shows that He regards the woman's question as sincere. Her narrow view at once sinks into the background, as He proclaims the one universal religion. This section is a classic, as the manifesto of spiritual religion. Carefully analyze Jesus' statement as concerns the following elements in worship : (1) Its object, God the Father; (2) Its nature, according to truth; (3) Its range, as wide as humanity; (4) Its power, satisfying the highest aspirations of men. In this statement, Jesus supplants the narrow symbolism of both Jew and Samaritan, and