

followed the Lamb? Turn to the fourth chapter of John and you will find another type of Christian—the woman at the well. She came to get a vessel of water and she got a whole well bubbling up in her heart. She could not contain herself, and she went through the town saying, "Come and see a man that told me all things whatsoever I did." If that had been at the present time, many would have advised her "Now, Maggie, you know your reputation is not the best, and this feeling of yours may not last. You had better let it rest for six months, and if it holds out we will take you before our church committee, and if they think well, we will take you in." In the seventh chapter of John, Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water,"—speaking of the Spirit which they would receive. As yet the Spirit had not come upon them. They had followed for three years, and they must have had the Spirit which gives conversion to have left their homes and followed one who was hated and despised. When Christ was talking about the Spirit, He must have been talking of some other spirit than that which induces men to follow Him. There are two ways of digging a well—one to dig until you strike water, which can be pumped to the surface; another to dig so deep that the water will of itself bubble up to the surface. I used to pump water at home when I was a boy; I have pumped for the cattle until my arms ached. At the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York city, they dug down 2,500 feet, right through granite, and then the water gushed out to the surface. Every Christian should be like an Artesian well, the Spirit flowing up all the time. You have seen a good many men pumping both on platform and in Christian work. The pump squeaked, but nothing came. There was no water, the well was dry. No supply has been given by God. We should pray for it. God says, "I will pour floods upon the dry ground." Show me a church full of faith in the Holy Ghost, and I will guarantee that it is a power in the world, and is winning thousands of souls to the kingdom of Christ. That is what we want—men and women full of the spirit. You can have it if you ask for it. People say that first you have to be emptied; that if you are full of self and worldliness, you must get that out before God can come in. That tumbler is full of air. If I want to get the air out, what do I do. I pour the water in and that drives the air out. Suppose this church had been built without windows and all inside here was dark, what would be said if the churchwardens should hire a hundred men with buckets to bail out the darkness? You would say they were fit candidates for a lunatic asylum. Make windows and let in the light. That will drive the darkness out. If you want to get the world out, let the Spirit come in. It would be a good thing if we could have all over Christendom meetings once a week for hungry and thirsty Christians. People come to religious meetings and get nothing. What is the use of toiling all night and catching nothing, when by casting the net on the right we could get it full at the first throw? If we are on the right side with God and are full of the Holy Ghost, we shall have no empty pews. I remember making such a remark in Chicago, when a prominent minister said he would like to find out who were the hungry and thirsty ones in his congregation; but he did not know how to find out who they were. Take this church and send a boy down the aisle with a bucket of water and you will soon find out who are the thirsty ones. If, however, the boy carried an empty bucket, and the people on looking into it, saw it was empty, you could never find out who was thirsty. The

difficulty is that we have been going into the pulpit with an empty bucket. I know something of that. When we have our buckets full, we shall have power. The people will gather round us, because they will see that you have something which they have not, because the Holy Ghost brings joy, love and peace and all the fruit of the Spirit. Let us keep it in mind—God is able to fill every one full. If we are not full of the Spirit, who is to blame? There is a story connected with Elisha of which I am very fond. There was a prophet who died, leaving a widow with two boys. The boys were going to be sold because the father had been bankrupt, and bankruptcy was a serious thing in those days. She went to Elisha and laid the case before him, saying that all she had was a pot of oil. He said, "Go home, borrow all the vessels you can, and borrow not a few; and when you have got your vessels in the house, lock the doors, and with you two sons put the oil in the empty vessels." If she had been a sceptic and unbeliever she would have got angry, and said, "How is that going to pay the debt?" I can see her going to her next door neighbor, knocking at the door, and saying, "Have you got some empty vessels to lend? I want all you can spare." You can almost see the boys carrying the vessels—some almost as large as themselves. Then she goes next door and says, "Can you spare me some empty vessels for a few days? Let me have all you can spare." Down one side of the street she went and up the other side. In those days, I suppose, all the neighborhood must have known of it; the neighbors would be commenting on the fact that the widow and her two boys had been carrying vessels all day. When she had got the vessels, not a few, she would say, "You carry them away while I fill them, and you the smaller boy, bring the empty vessels." She kept pouring and pouring; there are plenty of vessels, bring them along, "and the supply of oil was stayed, but until every vessel was filled." Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children off the rest. Brethren, bring on your empty vessels, borrow not a few. Let us bring them right to Him, He is able to fill them. I heard of an Englishman who went on a colonization expedition to Africa. The natives of a certain port told him that no rain fell during certain months—as was the case in Kansas. He went to another part and made enquiries, and he was again told that there were certain months without rain. A third place he visited and asked and he was told there were refreshing showers all the year round. There he remained. Thank God, the clouds are dropping fatness all the year round and the world has nothing to do in the matter. God will give us all we ask for. A great many people forget that they might have been full a few months ago, but empty now. The Church is full of shorn Samsons. Their strength is gone and they know it not. Thank God it was shorn, it is pulled off by the roots, and would grow again. Come and ask God to fill you again. How He delights to backslide! I think the greatest sermon ever preached was by Peter, after his fall. There may be backsliders who had great power a year ago, but they can have that old power restored if they come back to Christ. I want to make this distinction, and I hope I shall be able to make you all perceive it. The Spirit of God may be gone, making me an heir to glory. That is one thing, but the Spirit of God on me for service is another thing. When Christ rose He met His disciples on the first Sabbath evening in the room at Jerusalem. He breathed to them and said, "Receive the Holy Ghost!" Do you suppose they did not receive the Spirit then? He said