

## LESSON XII.—CONVERSATION WITH THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA.

March 20 - 26, 2022

### Shechem, A. D. 28.

(John 4 : 7-42.)

*Side texts to be studied with questions.*

1. WHAT favor did the Saviour ask of the woman of Samaria, at Sychar's well? John 4 : 7.

2. With what words did the woman apparently resent Jesus' request? Verse 9. See note 1.

Acts 10 : 28 ;  
Gal. 2 : 12.

3. What answer did the Saviour make in order to avoid the national contention? Verse 10.

Isa. 12 : 3 ;  
John 7 : 37, 38 ;  
Rev. 22 : 17.

4. Not knowing the gift of God, how did the woman reply? Verses 11, 12.

Jer. 2 : 13 ; 17 : 13.

5. How did the Saviour meet this objection? Verses 13, 14.

John 6 : 35.

6. Did the woman comprehend Christ's meaning in the use of this similitude? Verse 15.

7. Without condemning the woman for her loose life but rather desiring to lead her to make voluntary confession, what did Jesus ask her to do? Verse 16.

8. What did she say to this request? Verse 17.

9. How did the Saviour then begin to reveal Himself to her? Verses 17, 18.

10. By these words what did the woman dimly see in Christ? and what question did she ask Him in consequence? Verses 19, 20.

Deut. 12 : 5, 11.

11. How did the Lord then reveal to her the result of His coming to earth? Verses 21-24. See note 2.

12. Hearing this, what did the woman tell about what she knew of the anticipated Messiah? V. 25.

13. What plain words did the Lord then speak to her? Verse 26.

14. When the disciples returned from the city with food, how were they affected at finding Jesus talking with the woman? Verse 27. See note 3.

John 10: 16;  
Gal. 3: 28.

15. What did the woman then do and say? and with what result? Verses 28-30.

16. While she was gone, what did the disciples desire Jesus to do? Verse 31.

17. What was His answer? Verse 32.

18. In reply to their private questioning regarding the situation, what did He say to them? Verses 34-38.

19. What effect did the woman's words have on the Samaritans? Verses 39, 40.

20. To what happy conclusion did many of those come, who went out to hear Christ? Verses 41, 42.

21. Give the principal circumstances connected with the birth of Christ.

22. State what you have learned of His childhood.

23. Tell briefly the story of His baptism and temptation in the wilderness.

24. Recite the leading events in His ministry as far as studied.

#### READING.

"Desire of Ages," pp. 183-195.

#### NOTES.

1. The hot climate of that country made a drink of water of so much value that under ordinary circumstances no one would think of refusing it. But continued strife for centuries between the Jews and Samaritans had created a most bitter and permanent hatred between the two sections. In the first place, the Samaritans were made up of people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, taken there by the king of Assyria when he carried the ten tribes of Israel into captivity. A few stragglers, also, from

the ten tribes found their way back again to their native land. For certain reasons, the king of Assyria returned one of the exiled priests to that land, who taught the people the worship of Jehovah, which they added to their own worship of idols. 2 Kings 17:24-33. When the tribe of Judah returned from its captivity, these people desired to join with them in building the temple at Jerusalem, which was refused. The Samaritans in consequence built a rival temple at Mount Gerizim. Eternal enmity sprang up; greater holiness was claimed for Mount Gerizim than for Jerusalem; the Samaritans accused the Jews of corrupting God's Word. On the other hand, the Jews called the Samaritans Cuthites, and forbade all intercourse with them; to receive one into the house was to bring down the curse of God.

2/Note how carefully the Saviour led the mind of the woman, not only to voluntarily confess her sinfulness, but to ask questions for the enlightenment of her darkened mind. He precipitated nothing, but let her open the way for the line of truth she sought to receive. A worthy lesson for many now who would make assertions people are not prepared to receive.

3. The relations of the sexes in that day, even in common life, were very narrow and suspicious among the Jews. An unveiled woman in public was counted immodest. For a rabbi to speak to a woman publicly was highly indecent. The Talmud forbade it, even though the woman was the rabbi's own wife. He could not even greet her courteously. The disciples, however, dared not question the act of their Master, even though the woman with whom He talked was a hated Samaritan sinner. He went so far over the bounds of prescribed custom as to conclusively show that true religion recognized no social difference between the sexes. In Christ all are one.

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