SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON III.

JESUS THE WATER OF LIFE
(John 4: 1—54.)
Printed Text John 4: 7—26

Golden Text—Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. John 4:14.

The Lesson in Its Setting

Time.—December, A.D. 27.

Place.—The discourse with the Samaritan woman took place at Sychar in Central Palestine between Mt. Gerizim and Mount Ebal. The rest of the chapter narrates events occurring in Galilee, especially at Cana and Capernaum.

7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. "A woman, and as such, lightly regarded by the popular doctors (cf. v. 27): a Samaritan, and as such, despised by the Jews.

Jesus said unto her, Give me a drink. "He opened the conversation with a request on the human level, the level of His own human necessity.

8. For His disciples were gone away into the city to buy food. It is possible that one of the disciples carried a vessel for drawing water up from the well, and that, because they were absent, a stranger had to be asked to draw water up for the Lord.

9. The Samaritan woman therefore saith unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me? The word here translated "askest" is a word of petition, as from an inferior to a superior; but when Christ refers to that request of hers, He does not take up and allow her word, but uses the phrase, "who is it that saith to thee." Who am a Samaritan woman. (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) "Rabbinis precept forbade Jews to eat bread or drink wine with the Samaritans. The Jews despised them as a mongrel people with nondescript faith (2 Kings 17: 24 ff.)."

10. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God. As far as we know, the water was not drawn up for the quenching of Jesus' thirst. He drops the matter of his need for literal water, and He turns the attention of the woman from things physical to things spiritual.

And who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink. Two things then this woman did not know, the gift of God, and the identity of the person who stood before her. Thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. God's greatest gifts are available to His children, whatever their merits, simply by asking (Matt. 7: 7, 8). "a common expression for running spring water of a cistern or reservoir, and used as a symbol of spiritual blessings with great frequency in the Old Testament."

11. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: whence then hast Thou that living water? The woman finds it impossible to comprehend the spiritual aspects of our Lord's statement, and, for the most part, confines her attention to the matter of drawing literal water from the well immediately before them; yet, in her question, "Whence, then, hast Thou living water?"

12. Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his sons, and his cattle? There is nothing in the Bible to substantiate the claim of the Samaritans that they descended from Joseph, and hence could call Jacob their father. "When the Samaritans asked Alexander the Great to excuse them from tribute in the sabbatical year because, as true sons of Joseph they did not till their land that year, he pronounced their claim an imposture and destroyed Samaria."

13. Jesus answered and said unto her, Every one that drinketh of his water shall thirst again. The Lord Jesus does not stop to compare Himself with Jacob, but He does state a truism which she could not deny, namely, that the water in this well could only temporarily quench the thirst of any who drink of it.

14. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. (Cf. 6: 35; Rev. 7: 16; 21: 6) Here Christ gathers to a head innumerable promises of the Old Testament, and thus claims them as fulfilled in Himself; e.g., Isa. 41: 18; 48:21; 49: 10; 55:1. See also Psalm 36:9; Jer. 2: 13; 17:13. But the water I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life. Christ received into the heart by a believer imparts eternal life. The spiritual life which we have from Christ can never dry up. It goes on and on for all eternity.

15. The woman saith unto Him Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come all the way hither to draw. Not only has the curiosity of the women been aroused, but Christ has stirred up within her heart a deep longing for this living water of which He is speaking, though she does not fully comprehend what He has been saying.

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. One is surprised at the sudden change in the line of Jesus' conversation. At the moment when she asked the Lord for this living water, He told her to go back to the city. He did not bestow upon this woman the gift of eternal life when she was keeping buried out of His sight, and probably out of serious consideration, the shameful sin in which she was living. Christ must bring her to an acknowledgment and a confession of this sin first.

17. The woman answered and said unto Him, I have no husband. Apparently this was an attempt to evade an examination of which she was afraid. "She would rather have these pages unturned. Jesus saith unto her, Thou saidst well, I have no husband: 18. For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband; this hast thou said truly. We must not forget that this terrible resume of this woman's life was not something which she confessed, but was something which He had knowledge of and reminded her of.

19. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. The word here translated "perceive" "marks contemplation, not immediate perception."

20. Our fathers worshipped in this domain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. The mountain to which this woman referred is Mount Gerizim, which was for the Samaritans the holy mountain of the world.

21. Jesus saith unto her, Woman believe me, the hour cometh when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father. Our Lord does not decide the question as to the superiority of one location over another, though, of course, if He had spoken about it, He would have exposed the fradulent claims of the Samaritans; but He simply announces to her that the time would come when the worship of the Father would be determined no longer by some geographical limitation.

22. Ye worship that which ye know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. The Samaritan religion had only the Pentateuch for its Bible: it repudiated the Psalms and the writings of the prophets. Furthermore, it had added many idolatrous practices and pagan superstitions, so that the God whom they worshipped was not the true Jehovah of the Old Testament.

23. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. True worshippers here are contrasted not so much with the insincere as with those who worship imperfectly. That which is imperfect can never be finally true. To worship "in spirit" is to commune with God in one's spirit, for the preposition "in" has reference to the sphere in which worship moves.

For such doth the Father seek to be His worshippers. "The Father is seeking in the Son for true worshippers, and therefore men are encouraged and enabled to seek Him in spirit and truth (John 1: 17)."

24. God is a Spirit. By saying tha God is a Spirit, Christ means that God has no bodily form. On the other hand, God does have substance or essence. God is not a mere idea, or a construction of the mind, like a mathematical formula.

And they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Worship of God which is not in accordance with Gods nature is not true worship.

25. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ): when He is come, He will declare unto us all things. This is the only place in the New Testament where Christ is referred to as the Messiah, with the single exception of a proceding notice in this same Gospel (1:41). The word "Messiah means the Anointed One.

26. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. These words probably did not express a surprising truth to the women, who had been led to see so many great spiritual truths this hour. It is an undeniable acknowledgment, on the part of Christ, that He believed Himself to be the Messiah sent from God. If we do not accept His verdict about Himself, we characterize His as one who spoke falsely, or one who was under a delusion.

An Able Administrator

Sir Bede E. H. Clifford, C.B.)., K.G.M.G., M.V.D., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas.

movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

Jessica Dragone.te, who's been singing on the air practically ever since there's been any broadcasting, is branching out for herself with a new weekly series of half-hour musical programs each Wednesday night from nine-thirty till ten, on CBS. First tim she's been on a coast-to-coast series, after ten years of radio work.

* * *

If you listen to the Kate Smith programs, on which various unsung heroes and heroines appear, tell their story, and hen receive votes from listeners-in? If you heard seven-year-old Mary Louise McCroskey and liked her you'll be glad to hear that she was voted for by 215,000 people, and received the weekly award of $[illegible].

* * *

Loretta Young fell in love with the beautiful costumes that she wore in "Ramona," and couldn't bear to have them returned to the wardrobe room to be cut up and made over. So she bought them, had them remodeled slightly—and now has four new evening dresses.

* * *

At last Jack Oakie, that gay comedian of the screen, has his heart's desire—a master of ceremonies job on the air. It's odd that he hasn't been signed up before, for he is one of the few comedians who are as good on the air as they are on the screen — you've probably heard some of his guest performances; he was on with Bob Burns while Bing Crosby was in Honolulu. He got the idea for this new program from his work in "College Rhythm." He's admitted that he'll have "guest professors"—Al Jolson Eddie Cantor, Burns and Allen and others.

Jack Oakie

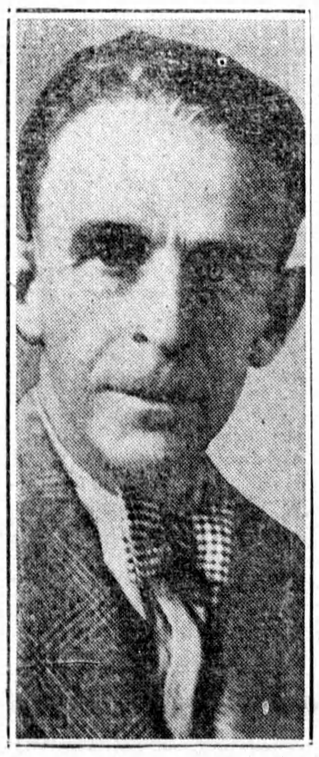
* * *

ODDS AND ENDS — Talent Scouts for two major picture companies appeared at New York's Casino Montclair, (favored haunt of movie celebrities) recently to watch Ann Courtney—not knowing that she'd signed that morning with Warner Brothers . . . Gloria Swanson's going to do a stage play in New York; Irving Thalberg had planned to bring her back to the screen, just before his death, it's said . . . You'll see Barbara Stanwyck dancing in 20th Century Fox's "Banjo on My Knee"; she used to do it for a living, starting in the "Follies" . . . This year those Saturday afternoon broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera Company's performances will be sponsored by the Radio Corporation of America.

Giving His Viewpoint

Lord Beaverbrook, British newspaper magnate arriving in New York City on Europa, pictured as he gave newsmen his views on Edward's abdication.

Suggests New Kingdom



William H. Davies, Victoria, B. C., real estate operator, has suggested that Vancouver Island seceds from the Dominion of Canada and establish a monarchy over which former King Edward VIII and Mrs. Simpson would be invited to rule as king and queen.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL
With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Question:— (a) "Has there been very much experimental work carried on in Ontario to determine if the use of fertilizer in this province is profitable? Will it pay me to use fertilizer wth my spring grain crop?

(b) I intend to grow 10 acres of table turnips (Rutabagas) on a clay loam soil which will receive eight loads of barnyard manure per acre. What kind of fertilizer would be suitable for these conditions and how should it be sown?'—T. B., Waterloo County.

Answer:—(a) The Ontario Agricultural College has been carrying on fertilizer experiments in various parts of the province for several year. During the last seven years, a very definite campaign of testing the suitability of various fertilizers on the farmers' own farms has been in progress. Over 6500 plots have been conducted on a total of over 1300 farms. This work has proven quite definitely that profit is to be gained by wise use of fertilizers in supplementing the fertility of the soil and of manure which has accumulated on the farm. The average gain in cereals that has been obtained is from 10 to 15 bushels per acre. Fertilizers on potatoes, over a six-year period have given an average increase of 55 bushels per acre Fertilizers on alfalfa have produced an average increase of almost two tons per acre. All these increases and similar improvement in other crops have been obtained from moderate application of such as 250 lbs. per acre on cereals, 375 lbs. per acre on alfalfa and 750 lbs. per acre on potatoes. At prices which have prevailed for fertilizers and for crops, exceeding good interest on money invested in fertilizer has been realized. (b) On turnips, 2-12-10 fertilizer has given largest yields, at the rate of 200 to 250 lbs. per acre. This is a fairly heavy application to make through the fertilizer dropper attached to the turnip drill. It has been found better practice to drill the fertilizer over the turnip area before the land is ridged for seeding.

Question: (a) "I grow cabbage and cauliflower for early market. My soil is a light sandy loam and I would like to know what fertilizer and the quantity per acre should be used to give the earliest results.

(b) I have an eight-year-old asparagus bed which produces an excellent yield so far as quantity is concerned, but after about the third cutting, the tips become stringy. Can this be corrected by the use of a balanced fertilizer and what analysis would you recommend? Also, please give me any other information which you think would benefit the crop. Up until now this asparagus bed has never received anything but barnyard manure.

(c) Do I need to use fertilizer when I follow a rotation in which a green crop, usually alfalfa, is plowed under every four years and the land receives a good application of manure every four to five years."—W. S. S., Essex.

Answer:—(a) For cabbage and cauliflower, good results have been obtained from use of a 4-8-10 fertilizer at the rate of 1500-2000 lbs per acre. This should be worked into the soil along the rows, before the plants are transplanted. Particularly good results are obtained also from an additional light application of nitrate of soda around the plants, but not touching them, about two weeks after the plants have been set out and sometimes again at a period of another two weeks. Do not apply more than 10 lbs. per acre in one application.

(b) Asparagus can be helped materially by the addition of fertilizer in spring. We would not advise a mixed fertilizer, but an application of 100-200 lbs. per acre of nitrate of soda, or cyanamid, should give good results This should be scattered along the asparagus rows before the tips begin to show and worked into the soil by light harrowing After the asparagus is cut, the application of such fertilizer as 4-8-10 gives great strength to the crop for the next year

(c) The rotation of crops which includes legumes such as alfalfa and sweet clover or common clover, adds organic matter to the soil and makes some addition of nitrogen. Other crops take out nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, and of course legumes remove considerable potash and phosphoric acid from the soil. If manure is added, quite a bit of nitrogen will be supplied, a small amount of phosphoric acid and a valuable amount of potash, so that for general cropping systems with good rotation of crops, there is necessity for addition of more phosphoric acid and potash than is returned in manure. Whether or not there is need of more nitrogen will depend entirely on the type of farming and the soil type.

Married in New York

Mr. John Stewart McLennan, Jr., son of the Hon. John Stewart McLennan, of Petersfield, Sydney, Nova Scotia, and his bride, formerly Mrs. Sally White Houghton daughter of Mr and Mrs. Edward Lawrence White, of Beaverley Farms, Mass., whose marriage took place in the Municipal Chapel in New York City on Wednesday last. This photograph was taken just after their wedding.