

appeared. No Messiah ever comes from her type of person.

But when we turn to look at Ruth, the golden bells begin to ring. This young girl comes to her mother-in-law and plants a kiss upon her face, and then falls to her knees and winds her arms about the legs of this one so dear to her. The kiss was followed by an embrace, and the embrace was followed by a spoken pledge, which said:

"Intreat me not to leave thee; nor to go back from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: and the Lord do so to me and more if anything but death part me from thee."

With these words Ruth entered into the Hall of Fame. She became the noblest of all women, and took her place in the lineage of Christ. Some would say this is recklessness on her part, but remember that recklessness is judged according to one's motive.

Losing Life to Find It

When a man throws his life, or when a woman throws her life into the cause of Christ, when once and for all they give themselves to the noblest of all causes, there can be no recklessness charged to them.

Ruth didn't lose her life, she found it. And Orpah did not find her life, she lost it. This very principle came from the lips of Jesus but was true before He spoke it, and can be traced in all of the realms of life.

The very words of this scripture have been whispered in the ears of many a man: "Whither thou goest, I will go." That's the basis for the happiest marriage. But nowhere is this principle more clearly illustrated than in the field of religion.

In Christianity there are those who offer the kiss of Orpah to our Lord and His church. It is the kiss of nice words. It consists of the kiss of church membership, even sometimes it consists of the kiss of baptism or immersion.

Heaven's Best - Earth's Worst

September 12

"Then cometh Jesus to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now

Those who enter the baptismal pool recognizing that it is only the beginning of their Christian life, and who go from that moment until they become spiritual giants, are the one who have lost their life to find it.

But there are others who when they are baptized have reached their highest mark and from that moment they fade into nonentity. They have managed to give the world every one of its Judases, everyone of its Anniases, and Saphiras, its Benedict Arnolds and its Aaron Burrs . . . the people who pledge with a kiss when they do not pledge with their hearts. No greater curse has been laid upon the churches of our day than this. Those who are soft-lights and sweet music Christians . . . who say to the preacher, "Don't pull back the curtain and show me the world's horrors and the lost of our day. I shudder and I do not want to see it."

A Luxury Train

To them the Church is a luxury train made up of sleepers, diners and observation cars, and their so called conversion took place when they joined the church. Their ticket is punched and they have absolutely nothing to do until they step off at the terminal station at the gates of heaven; they think.

For those of us who have found Christ, there is a life to be conquered, there is a life to be lived, there's a service to be rendered. From the day we walk down the aisle of a church and enter the baptismal pool we have only begun to live and serve and grow as God would have us grow. Thank God for the Ruths, those who repent of sin, who determine once and for all to leave Moab, who through saving faith and deathless devotion to Christ give themselves completely to Him.

In Ephesians 2:13 we read: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who were sometimes afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Thank God for the Ruths, who, though Gentile by race, become a child of God by faith, who laid down their lives at the feet of Christ, and who say: "God do more to me, if anything but death, separate me from thee."

Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied, with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh

a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink:" (John 4:5-7)

And thus our story begins. A story that will be told as long as there are preachers to preach it, and congregations to listen. It's a priceless, matchless story of the historic meeting of Heaven's Best and Earth's Worst.

She came to the well that day thinking of earthly things; He came thinking of His soul. She wanted water and He gave her salvation. She came to argue and she went away exalted. What a marvelous change can take place with one touch of God.

A stable was transferred into the place where the Son of God was born. A woman was made the vessel from which the Son of God emerged. A rough hewn cross becomes the symbol of everlasting life to millions and millions of men throughout all the ages.

Yes, when you are face to face with Christ at the well of Sychar, watch out! Something wonderful is about to happen.

Jesus Approaches Us

Jesus said to this muchly married woman: "Give me to drink." He broke the silence. He started the conversation. If He hadn't, the story would have never started, but, so it always is. Jesus approaches the sinner; no matter how brazen or sinful he may be, Jesus opens the conversation.

He said to this woman, "Give me to drink." What do you think He meant? It was not that His lips were parched and dry, though they may have been. It was that the Son of God thirsted for her life and her soul, and what He was actually saying to her, and what He is saying to you, is, "Satisfy my longing. Give me the thing I want the most . . . your immortal soul."

The woman answered this request for a drink with these impertinent words: "How is that thou being a Jew, asked a drink from me being a woman of Samaria?" If she had had one ounce of graciousness, she would have laid aside the national enmity and dislike.

But let's suspend judgment for a moment, for isn't this the answer of the human heart when it's first approached. Can you remember the time God made His first invitation to your heart? And you spurned Him. You may look back right this moment with great sorrow in your heart at the first rejection of Christ who asked in

plaintive words: "satisfy my longing." And you spurned Him with words like these.

Those words, "If thou knewest." That's the trouble with sinners—if they only knew, but they don't know. What man would deliberately decide, "I prefer to spend eternity in hell. I look forward to it with a great deal of joy." No man would do that.

But we read Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," and a man may take his choice—the gift of God, or eternal death.

Dear friend, if you knew today, the peace that only God can give, if you knew the happiness that can only come through doing the will of God, if you knew the joy that wells up in one who anticipates the future, hand in hand with God, you would not reject Him another moment. But you don't know, and you look at us suspiciously. We felt the same way, we laughed and we scoffed because we didn't know either. You don't know where you're going, you don't know what you're doing, in fact, you don't know anything until you know God!

A Positive Statement

Listen to this woman, who in her rejection begins an attempt to display her religious knowledge. How typical! She says to Jesus, "Art thou greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank thereof himself and his children, and his cattle?"

Jesus ignored this question of hers. He, nor I, nor any other sensible person will argue with sinners about religion—it doesn't pay. No, he said, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, and whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

Suddenly the woman saw that here was something she could really use. Jesus showed her that His way was better than her way. Our poor old world is trudging along with a water pot on its shoulders that will not stay full; and every time our world needs a drink, the pot is empty. Here is the one and only water of life—Jesus, the Son of God.

The woman said to Him: "Sir, give me this water that I thirst not." Now isn't it strange. Our story started off when Jesus asked her for a drink, and she refused.

We Must Face Sin

Now she has asked Him for a drink, and He refuses, for He says to her, "Go and call thy husband." The woman pauses for a moment and says, "I have no husband." And Jesus said unto her: "Thou hast well said I have no husband, for thou hast had five husbands and he whom thou now hath is not thy husband, in that thou saidest truly."

I wonder why Jesus brought up the most embarrassing thing that He could have spoken of that day to that woman. He could have talked about anyone of a hundred different subjects and never mentioned this most embarrassing thing to her. She had begun life a beautiful young girl, wrapped up in her own beauty and her own body. She thought that beauty in body could bring her everything that she could ever want, but five husbands later and now a paramour, with her beauty gone, with her soul ruined, with her heart blackened and her life destroyed, she knows better. She knows that a body is too small a thing to spend a life on. Jesus had to talk about the sin question. You must face the sin question, there is no way to escape it. It would be very nice if someone could say, "Hush! we'll not mention the past," but that isn't it. Many people are willing to compliment Christ, but they don't want to confess their sins to Him. But the work of the Holy Spirit, if we read the Bible aright, says, "He came to convict the world of sins." If that hasn't happened in your life you're not saved, and your compliments and your attendance in church on Easter and Christmas are not enough.

So, today people who live for the world, and the flesh, and the devil will fight at the drop of a hat for their pet denomination when they're no more children of God than an animal in the street. I've seen sinners on the point of confession who said, "Well, of course, I'm a Methodist, or a Presbyterian . . ."

If you've missed Christ, you can belong to all of them, and still miss the mark and be lost. It's my own conviction that in hell there will be representatives of all denominations, not because they belong, but because they missed Jesus!

The woman is now at the end of her rope, and she says in the 25th verse: "I know that Messiah cometh, who is called the Christ." In verse nine, she called Him a Jew, in verse 19 she called Him a prophet, and now in the 25th verse she calls Him the Messiah. She's at the end of her rope, and having confessed Him as the Son of God she turned and ran. And in the 30th verse you read: "Then they went out of the city and came unto Him." What happened?

This untidy woman, this dirty rag that had been cast aside by five men already, to whom no man would be seen speaking in daylight on the streets of her little city, went and told them that she had met Christ. The scripture says, the entire city turned out and followed her across the desert to where the well was. Imagine! I tell you that is infallible testimony of conversion. When a changed face, a changed voice, and a changed topic of conversation characterizes any man or any woman who has met Jesus Christ.

Do some of you think you're not in this woman's class? Unless you've surrendered your life and heart to Him, YOU ARE. For you're not your own, you've been bought with a price—the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Turn to the 10th chapter of Romans verses 9, 10 and 11. Read as it says:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Because the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

May God help you today . . .

Christianity Is A Family Affair

September 19

In Genesis 7:1 we read words to this effect—"Christianity is a family affair." This is God's call to a father. God had been trying for 120 years to get the ears of the fathers of Noah's day. He had failed, and all that Noah had done had fallen upon deafened ears, and

finally God's cup of wrath is filled.

In that day of violence and wickedness God could not longer bear to witness the evil imaginings of men's hearts. So He commanded that Noah should prepare an ark, a great ship in which he and his family and speci-