

as the transfiguration scene or the resurrection of Lazarus but the Spirit opens the record of the life of God's Son upon the earth with a home scene in a little village among the highlands of Galilee. Let us learn certain lessons from the story. 1. Christ has a place in all the ordinary relations of life. Many of us try to keep Him in the church. We go there at intervals to meet Him. It is a serious blunder. He belongs in the office and the market and the home. Some one has said "Christ left nothing that He did not touch and touched nothing that He did not glorify." He sanctifies the joys of life. He comes to the wedding as well as the funeral. 2. Water is turned into wine by obedience to Jesus. His mother laid bare the pivot of the miracle in her words: "Whatsoever He saith unto you do it." How often the common water of some humdrum day has been turned into the wine of heavenly joy by hearing the voice of Jesus and doing what he says. 3. Man puts his best first. He consumes his joys then only the dregs are left. But in the fellowship of Christ the best wine is kept until the last. There is always something better ahead. 4. It is the man at the bucket who knows the mysteries of the wine. The ruler of the feast could not understand but the servants which drew the water knew. It is ever so. Inspiration is closely related to perspiration. The man who toils faithfully gets the hidden things. Dr. Robertson says "I'll take my theology from him who has beads of holy sweat upon his brow."

## Saturday, 28 October

JOHN 2:22-3:21. In this thir dchapter of John is Christ's simple yet marvellously profound unfolding of the doctrine of the new birth. It forms part of the constitution of His Kingdom. He tells us that this birth from above is—1. Necessary. The word is not "ye may" but "ye must." If anyone among the multitudes of Jerusalem might think to get along without it Nicodemus might. He was a highly respected man, a strictly moral man, a scrupulously religious man, yet Jesus looked him squarely in the eye and said "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God. 2. Mysterious. The natural man marvels at it. With astonishment he says: "How can these things be? It is like the wind: we can not see its coming and its going. 3. Yet it is reasonable. We can not see the thing but we can get its results. Indeed we cannot get away from the fact as it reveals itself in life. If we measure it by these revealings we are compelled to accept it. 4. Heavenly. It is one of the things which Jesus brought from above. It is the coming of a Divine life into a human heart. Not the patching up of a marred and defiled soul—it is what it claims to be a new birth. 5. Reachable. Notwithstanding the mystery and the divinity of it Christ has made the condtion as easy as could possibly be. We have only to believe in the crucified Christ. He was lifted up as a remedy for our sins. The moment we look to Him by faith the new life comes, and we are born again from above.

## Sunday, 29 October

JOHN 3:22-36. There are several striking lessons in this passage. 1. We find a deplorable jealousy among the disciples of John. They mur-

mur and they endeavor to stir their master into murmuring because Jesus is making more converts than he. O how much of this among the Lord's people today. We become dumpy if another gathers more grain than we. We desire to see the progress of Christ's Kingdom but we want the progress to show most in return for our labors. May God kill the germs of this accursed jealousy within us. 2. Here is a splendid example of humility. It stands out in bold contrast against the background of his disciple's selfishness. John is willing to take the very lowest place. He can rejoice in the increase of Christ though with it come his own decrease. He is the friend of the Bridegroom. He has prepared His way and heralded His coming—that it enough. 3. An impressive picture of Christ. He cometh from above. He beareth witness of heavenly things. God hath sent Him. A Divine attest is upon His ministry. He speaketh the words of God. The Spirit hath been given to Him without measure. He is the only man whom God hath been able to trust with such a fulness. 4. We find here also the great divide. He that believeth on the Son with eternal life on one side, He that believeth not on the Son with the wrath of God on the other. On which side are you?

### Monday, 30 October

JOHN 4:1-30. Here is Jesus busy with a sin-scarred soul. In His dealings with the woman there are most valuable suggestions as to the work of soul-winning. 1. He was weary and hungry and thirsty but these things fade from His mind at the opportunity to help a sinner. O what mystic invigoration in this blessed service. It is rest and refreshment. In it is the meat which satisfies. 2. He meets her on her own ground. Had His first word been concerning her relation to God she would probably have turned and run like a frightened animal. She came to the well thinking about water. Jesus began his conversation there and led her on to the highest things of life. O for a skill like that! 3. He awakens her thirst. It is useless to offer one a glass of refreshing water if he feels no desire for it. Your offer of Christ will have no appeal with the heart that knows no need. He went deeper, He laid bare the woman's sin. There must be a recognition of guilt; a conception of sin and its vileness before we can appreciate a Savior. 5. He touched the religious instinct in her breast. 6. He revealed Himself. Nothing less than this could avail. This was the well of water that springeth up into everlasting life.

### Tuesday, 31 October

JOHN 4:31-54. The story of a remarkable revival is in this passage. A humble woman had come in touch with Christ and had found four things. 1. The knowledge of herself. 2. The foundation of satisfying life. 3. The revelation of Jesus. 4. A vision of the harvest field. Mr. S. D. Gordon says, every revival begins with an interview between Jesus and some soul. You might carry the revival fires like burning brands through your community if you would get close to Him and find what this woman did. Jesus must needs call the attention of the disciples to the fields that were white to the harvest. This woman had already