

that far-off condition to himself and of his own wish came back a better boy. He wandered from the path of obedience just as Jonah and just as Adam did in ages past, and the Father comes to-day and does all he can on His part. We are all His children, but we all have our work to do in order that our joy and happiness may be perfect and complete.

What of the other brother? When he came within hearing he queried: What does this mean? And, on finding out, his jealousy arose at once. He did not see the necessity of the father's doing that that he deemed to be best. The father reasoned with him, and the boy reasoned: I have all these years served thee and thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my friends." And the father said: "All that I have is thine." But there the father left him—left him to his own choice. And the one that the world called so bad is the best of the two, and the most happy.

These are striking illustrations to my mind, and I thank my Heavenly Father for them. They are practical lessons. He took man from his primordial state of innocence—as he comes into the world. He follows him into a foreign land, a place of alienation from God, and brings him back home again. I know something, my friends, of all these things. I wish to acknowledge the love of God to me. We are all Adams by nature, and Jonahs. The purpose of man's creation is the same now as it ever was. The plan of salvation of the soul is unchanged. According to history God pronounced upon all He had created not only the "good" but the "very good." Everything that comes into existence is as it ever was—"very good." Man cannot create himself, but comes from God, and must be good, "very good." Jesus when here upon earth took up a child in the midst of His disciples and said: "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Now in the kingdom of Heaven there is no taint, no defilement. Nothing impure

can enter there. Therefore we know what the nature of little children must be. Every wrong in our natures is brought there by our own choice. When we feel miserable it is a conviction of some evil thought or act of our committal. It is not heaven. And as we continue in the wrong, we cease to find any rest, until we do as Jonah did, cry unto the Lord, whence all redeeming and resurrecting power can come. I know of what I speak. I have been there myself.

This saving power was ever in the world with man. It even existed before the world was. It declares of itself: "Before Abraham was, I am." The only power that Jesus ever taught as sufficient to save mankind. We must come home to this Christ power in our own souls if we would have eternal life, and accepted it in the way of its coming.

I have the broadest charity and love for all. I call you all friends. What is it to be a friend with God? "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." He enjoins upon all the same thing He enjoined upon Adam. He was not to taste the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in that day he would surely die. Of course this does not mean a physical death, for Adam lived many years, physically after he ate the fatal fruit. But he died spiritually, separated himself from a living connection with his Maker, passed out of his Eden state. And so it is in this age. And when we are conscious of a wrong, we should be honest to acknowledge it before our Heavenly Father, and not hide ourselves as Adam tried to do behind his flimsy excuses, for God will walk in the garden in the cool of the day and call out to us: "Adam, where art thou?" "The cool of the day" beautifully represents the time when the heat of passion has passed over, and the mind meditates upon the past acts.

God came into the garden to seek and to save, the same mission on