

preaching to the people : but besides these public exhortations, he communed with his disciples and friends, and often explained to them his parables in private. This is particularly shewn in the parable of the Sower. "And his disciples came and said unto him, why speakest thou unto the people in parables? He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given, therefore speak I to them in parables; because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand: and in them is fulfilled the prophesy of Isaias the Prophet, which saith, "but hearing ye shall hear, and not understand, seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed: lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear—for, verily, I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them, and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. Hear ye, therefore, the parable of the sower."

He then proceeds to explain to them, in the most clear and simple manner, this excellent parable. We quote this passage to shew the great efficacy of familiar instruction in religious matters. The disciples did not comprehend the parable—they could not, therefore, make any application of it. They enquire of him its import and application.—He complies with the request.—On all occasions when in doubt, they enquired of him, and had their difficulties removed. In this daily and familiar intercourse with him, they learned more of the nature of his kingdom, than from his public sermons to the people. Indeed all of us have experienced that an hour's discourse with a wise and intelligent man, has been of more use to us—we have comprehended more of the matter he was explaining, than if we had studied the subject for days, and perhaps years.

Another remarkable proof of the great efficacy of private conversation and personal intercourse is found in the appearance of our blessed Saviour to his Disciples after his resurrection; he was seen of them forty days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

In mentioning these proofs of the great efficacy of fa-