

servant. Dependence, waiting, and obedience, were the characteristics of this place, and they are found in Him to the uttermost. Hence, as in the Psalms, "I waited patiently for the Lord." He would not *ask* for power, but waits on God. "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" Put thoroughly to the test, He would do nothing but His Father's will. He was to learn obedience. Having taken the place, He would go through it wholly, not in one act, but experiencing the force of that expression, *learning* obedience, without one comfort here, with enemies around, bulls of Bashan besetting, dogs compassing. He had to learn obedience where obedience was always suffering, even to the yielding up of life. Every single step was humiliation till the close came in the cross, where the wrath of God was borne in love to us. No doubt He found, in His rejection, fields white for harvest, and so shall we, in our measure, when walking in the same path. But the cross was always before Him—everything that could stop a man. Nevertheless, He went on, patiently waiting, and not asking for deliverances. Thus He presented God perfectly to man, and perfect man to God.

In chapter iv., He begins this walk of suffering obedience publicly. And the first thing to be remarked is, that (ver. 1) being full of the Holy Ghost, He is led *by Him* into the wilderness, where He is tempted by the devil. There are two