

eternity's morn. When He created the world He stored away the ore in the bowels thereof, out of which were going to be forged the spikes that would transfix His sacred flesh, as we sinners nailed Him to the cross. And when He formed that pristine tree, He knew it contained in embryo that accursed tree on which He was going to hang a spectacle of woe. But so great was His love for guilty man that He so did. And when He lived that holy life of reproach, of want, of woe, did He murmur or complain? Nay, did He not set His face as a flint to go up to Jerusalem to endure that baptism of suffering, that bloody sweat in the Garden of Gethsemane, and that agonizing crucifixion on the hill of Calvary? Yea, that cruel pillar at which He was so mercilessly scourged, as well as Gethsemane and Calvary, was ever present to His holy mind. And should they, too, not be ever present to our minds?

Reader, your Saviour did all that for you, what have you done in return for Him? He emphatically says: "If ye love Me ye will keep my commandments." Now the sovereign and irrevocable appointment of high heaven is this: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God supremely and thy neighbor as thyself. "Herein is My Father glorified," the Lord Jesus again says, "that ye bear much fruit." "The poor are always with you." And if you relieve one of the least of these His brethren you do it unto Himself. He says yet again: "If any man will come after Me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me?" What are you denying yourself for your Saviour? What cross are you daily taking up for His name? What sacrifices are you making for His cause? Have you ever gone without your dinner, that you might feed the hungry? Shabby, that you might clothe the naked? Moneyless, that you might cover the perishing heathen with the garments of salvation? If you have, you have done well. But, after all, how very little is even this as viewed in the light of what the Lord Jesus has done for you! II Samuel 24: 24 contains the following beautiful incident concerning the Psalmist David: "And the King said unto Araunah, neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing."

The Lord Jesus Christ ever went about doing good.