

in the space between it and the rock. The Royal Portico ran from north to south along the top of this wall, and Josephus says that if one stood upon the top of the battlements

and looked down, he would turn giddy and would not be able to see the bottom. The combined height of the two would be at least three hundred feet.

### APPLICATION

*Jesus came from Nazareth*, v. 9. There would be sore hearts and prayerful hearts too, in the little town when He left. His old home, His friends and every one would miss Him. And many prayers would go up to Jehovah for His safety and His success. When John G. Paton left home for Glasgow as a young man, he was full of sorrow because of the parting. His father walked with him part of the way, and when they came to a hilltop he said, "Now, my boy we must part here. God bless you, and keep you in all your journey through life." John went on alone, and after he had got quite a distance away, he looked back, and there he saw his father kneeling on the spot where they had parted, praying to God for his son. Yes, we may believe that many in Nazareth prayed for the winsome and good young Man who left their streets to help the great world in its need.

*He saw the heavens opened*, v. 10. An Italian prince whose life was endangered by a plot, was secretly removed by friends to a fortress on a lonely mountain. From this fortress a beautiful stretch of Italy could be seen, but the prince was not permitted to go to the windows, except on certain days, for fear he might be discovered. When it was safe, his friends visited him, bringing the best entertainment they could procure. On these days the windows were opened and the prince was allowed to see his loved Italian landscape. The sight of it cheered him more than the music and feasts his friends provided, and he looked forward to their coming for the sake of the opened windows. Jesus must have valued the vision of His heavenly home granted Him that day of His baptism, far beyond our power to understand. Once and again during His ministry, He had these visions of the glory, and they helped to make Him brave and patient and strong.

*Thou art my beloved son*, v. 11. It was

after Jesus had submitted to John's baptism that this word came from God. So it is in all duty. When we seek to do God's will, He acknowledges us as His and helps us over the hard places. A boy was one day walking along a dusty road in the hot sun. There was no loitering nor laziness in his step. As if there were no discomforts, he stepped bravely on. Behind him came a man driving. He saw the boy, and noticed his eager walk, and thought, "Here is a lad who deserves a lift." When he got the boy beside him, the man said, "I saw your quick walking, and so I asked you to come in with me. If you had been loafing along, I would not have had you, for I do not like to have idlers near me."

*The tempter came*, Matt. 4: 3. He comes to all of us again and again. This fact should not be forgotten. We ought to be on our guard against his approaches, for he comes sometimes in the mask of kindness and with a proffer of aid, when we are pressed and need some hand to help, or some door of escape. Thackeray, the great writer, tells us that he was constantly tempted to cease his industrious habits and simple life, and live in ease and luxury. One day a friend gave him an engraving of St. George and the Dragon. In thanking his friend for the gift Thackeray said, "I am going to hang it in my study, so that by it I may always be reminded that I am to fight the two dragons that assail me—laziness and luxury." In this spirit he kept at his hard work day after day, refusing to be led aside into ways that were easy and aimless, and the fruit of his resistance of the tempter is a great delight to many for long years to come. The dragons that assail us may not be these that Thackeray had to fight, but whatever they are we may defeat their designs if we hold to our work, and our God-appointed way and refuse to be led aside.

*It is written*, v. 10. In the long campaign