

according to the personal peculiarities of the one answering. But there are four which would be likely to find a place under some form in the answers of most qualified students of His sayings. These are, the supremacy of love, the universal brotherhood of man, the duty of self-sacrifice for the sake of truth, righteousness and love, and the importance of motives in estimating character. Not one of these is strictly speaking new, but all of them had been largely ignored by the Jewish teachers and their resuscitation transformed the whole spirit of their teaching. They can hardly be said to have had any higher place in the heathen contemporary systems of morals than in that of the Scribes and Jewish doctors. Little reflection is needed in order to see how profoundly they modify the whole ideal of human life and conduct when exalted to their rightful place, and how immensely they elevate the standard of ethical requirement.

It is one thing, however, to set up a higher standard of morals and quite another thing to get men to respect it or act according to it with consistency. Had it been sufficient to show men their duty in order to secure the practical performance of it the Old Testament prophets had not so often lamented the disobedience of the people, the stoic philosophers would not have completely failed to regenerate heathen society, and even Confucius might have been the Savior of the Chinese nation from the doom which seems at last to have justly overtaken it. The real test of a great moral system lies in its power to secure obedience to its demands by such motives as are fitted to reach the human heart. Herein is to be found the key to the success of Christianity. For Jesus Christ inspired his followers to the noblest efforts after the attainment of the highest ideals, first of all by His own personal example of a wholly consecrated and blameless life, and then by an appeal to their love and devotion in response to His own unreserved self-sacrifice on their behalf.

It hardly needs any argument to prove that these are the strongest appeals that can possibly be made to a moral being. Christ did not indeed overlook altogether considerations of a more ordinary character such as the fear of punishment and