

sins and iniquities, but more so at God's love in so loving him as to give his only begotten Son to die for him. You who have come to Christ, see your blessedness, your duty, your privilege. You who have not, see your immediate duty; why stand afar off? why keep at a distance from God? why spend your life in waste, in want, in grovelling desires. Return to the Lord, come unto penitential confession, acknowledging your sin and iniquity. He waits to be gracious.

In the next place we would notice the love the Father hath bestowed.

"Herein is love, not that we love God, but God first loved us. That we would love God would be nothing wonderful. That holy beings love him is nothing wonderful, but that God should love us and so love us. It is not merely that he hath bestowed love but behold what manner of love. It is a gracious love. It was not the love of complacency, love that rest on some beautiful, pure and holy object. It was a love to which we had no claim. It was a love that had innumerable obstacles to oppose its flow, obstacles such as now exist between God and fallen angels. His love cannot so manifest itself to them as to invite them to enjoy, because there is no honorable and consistent way for the exercise and flow of love in this manner. It was love that overcame the mighty obstacles, it was love that gave up the greatest sacrifices. Think you that God had pleasure in seeing his only begotten and well beloved Son, a man of sorrows, despised of the people—the object of railing, insult and persecution. Think you that he had pleasure in exposing him to suffering and shame. Parent, would you take pleasure in seeing your son subjected to insult and persecution and reproach and ignominy and agony? No. Neither did the infinitely holy and loving God, but it was for the joy set before him that God gave up his Son to suffer. It was because all this would open up a free and open door, for the exercise of mercy on fallen men.

JUST AS THOU ART.

COUNTERPART TO THE BEAUTIFUL HYMN, "JUST AS I AM."

Just as thou art—without one trace
Of love, or joy, or inward grace,
Or meetness for the heavenly place—
O guilty sinner, come!