

centred. By nature we are therefore *eccentric*, in the literal sense of the word : away from our true centre. We must get away from self as the centre about which everything revolves by nature, and we on the other hand must begin to revolve about Christ. We must by the enlightenment of God's Holy Spirit waken up to the fact that we are all wrong and radically wrong by nature. For a long time, as you all know, it was believed that this earth was the centre of the universe, about which the sun and all the heavenly bodies were travelling. This seems to us to have been great conceit on the part of man to think that this little planet should be the centre of the universe ; and one day Copernicus, I think it was, found out otherwise. He had his suspicions aroused in some way : and he was watching on the sly ; and he actually saw this little earth creeping stealthily around the sun ! He caught her in the very act ! What a revolution this made in the scientific world ! It completely changed the ideas which men had held for so long a time. Now just such a revolution must take place in the religious experience of every man who becomes a Christian. We must not remain as we are by nature, self centred, thinking that everything was rightly made to revolve about our petty little individualities ; but we must come away from this delusion and join the throng of the Redeemed on earth and in heaven

in revolving about Christ as our true centre. Such a radical change is necessary before we can lead the higher life which is eternal. Be not deceived. God is not easily mocked. We cannot serve God and mammon. We simply *cannot* have self and Christ both as the centres of our life, for any schoolboy can tell you that one circle can only have one centre. We simply *cannot* have our feet planted away down deep in this world, and at the same time have our heads aloft breathing the rich and the pure atmosphere of heaven. We must give up *self*—however dear it has grown to us : sacrifice all that we have and all that we are, and give Jesus the supreme place in our affections : and if we cannot do this, we may as well do at once what the rich young ruler did, and what our Lord allowed him to do, go away sorrowful, sever ourselves from among the number of Christ's professed followers. The *test* of discipleship is therefore a very simple one and easy of application. It is just this : Am I living to self or am I living to Christ ? And when I say "living to Christ," I mean living for others ; for the cause of humanity, of the poor and fallen, is the cause of Christ. Inasmuch as we do it to one of the least of these, we do it unto Him. Am I fonder of myself than I am of my Master ? Am I willing to obey in spirit the command of Christ—literally if need be—"Go, sell whatsoever thou hast and