

ship with his father. There was a cause for this unhappy condition and it may be you will find it if you search your own heart. When Jesus was on earth He spake a parable of "A certain man that had two sons." *Not* a parable of the "prodigal son," as it is so commonly called, but *two* sons, and as I read that parable and take in the surroundings I conclude that our Lord was teaching a lesson from the son who stayed home, rather than the prodigal as He spake to those Pharisees that day. At any rate there is a lesson in him for the church to learn to-day: for I am sure he represents a great many of God's children.

He had not run riot with the world; he had been loyal to the father, but he had not been enjoying his privileges as a son. His complaint was that he had never had a fatted calf, no music or dancing, no making merry with his friends. But this was all his own fault. It was not his Father's pleasure or will that he should be living this miserable kind of life any more than it is the will of our Father that we should be living at "This poor dying rate."

To me there is a strain of sadness in the father's voice when He says: "Son, thou art ever with me, and *all* I have is *thine*."

He could have had a grand time every day had