

passion. And, let us remember, this was not a momentary ebullition of feeling on the Savior's part. It was the expression of the constant—the normal—feeling of His mind. It was that feeling which is expressed in such language as this:—"God is love." "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us." "God commendeth His love toward us."

In the case before us, this compassion was manifested

(1) Toward *his own disciples*. They had returned from their missionary tour, encouraged indeed, but weary in body, and Jesus, out of compassion for them, said: "Come ye apart and rest." Now, I take it, there is something peculiar in the compassion of Jesus for His own. We shall probably never know all that is implied in the language of Jesus: "God *so loved the world*"—the lost, wayward, ungrateful, rebellious world. But there is something in advance, even of that, in the feeling described when it is said that "Jesus, having loved *His own* which were in the world, loved them unto the end." So, also, in the statement: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." God's love toward the world is greater than we can conceive. It is an ocean without a bottom and without a shore. But in that love the predominating element is *compassion*. In the love of Jesus for His own, there is compassion too, but the predominating element is *complacency*. It is attachment, as well as compassion, based on similarity of character and disposition. It is a pity of peculiar tenderness. You feel for the poor victim of poverty or misfortune, but you feel also for your child and, I need not say, that the feeling for the one is not quite the same as it is for the other. And so, God cares for us with a peculiar tenderness and love. We may be absolutely certain that He has for us the same consideration and pity that he had for the tired disciples when he said:—"Come ye apart and rest." Weary worker, God's eye is upon you in all your toil. He cares for the body as well as for the soul. He meets all your wants and is able to supply all your need, for "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I love to think that this Bible still utters God's invitation to the weary and heavy-laden—as they wet it with the tears of sorrow and thumb it with the horny hands of toil,—
"Come unto me and rest."

(2) It was compassion toward the *shepherdless people*. Mark tells us that "Jesus was moved with compassion toward them because they were as sheep not having a shepherd." It is sad to see people naked and destitute of daily food; to meet strong men willing, but unable, to find work; to listen to the piteous cries of the children of the poor; to hear the disconsolate father or the weeping mother tell them that there is no bread. It makes strong men weep to enter the habitations of the poor in our larger cities,—no food, no fuel, scant clothing, no comforts. I know some of the things that