

soul, and which in spirit it tastes now, depends on the Lord Jesus not acting with us on the principle of a patron, heaven would then be only a well-ordered world of human principles and benevolences, and what a thing that would be! Is it the condescendings of a great one that we see in Christ?—" *I am among you as one that serveth,*" says He. Is it the distant and courtly benevolence of a superior that we receive from Him? "*The glory which Thou gavest Me, I have given them,*" is not of that kind. He is, it is eternally true "*Master and Lord,*" and He would have us know Him such, but He sits at our table with us; as of old He could command Moses to take off his shoes in His presence, but speak to him face to face, as a man speaketh to his friend.

And was it not thus to perfection in the days of His flesh on earth? Every case, I may say, tells us so—it was never the style of a mere benefactor, the distance and elevation of a patron, "*He bore our sicknesses, and carried our sorrows.*" Just look at Him at Jacob's well. A woman was there who had the most exalted thoughts of Him. "I know that Messiah cometh, who is called Christ; when He is come, He will tell us all things."—This was her high and just sense of the Messiah, not knowing that He to whom she was thus speaking face to face, could say immediately in answer to her, "*I that speak unto thee am He.*" But where was He, the exalted Christ all this time? Sitting on one stone with her, talking with her as