

they get into some difficulty, and get exposed and feel sorry, that is repentance. That is not repentance at all. Saul had that kind when he thought his subjects were going to look upon him with dishonour and contempt, and he was troubled about his own reputation, and wanted Samuel to put it right with his people. Judas repented, but it was not true repentance. Judas is the only man we read of in Scripture who went to confess to a priest, and he went right out after and hung himself. He didn't go to the Master Himself. When he truly repents, man turns to God Himself. If you want to find what true repentance is, look at the prodigal son, who returned to his father and said, "Let me be as one of the hired servants."

AND WHEN A MAN COMES TO GOD

with true repentance, then God will receive him. Look at David, who came and said, "I have sinned," and he repented in sackcloth and ashes. and God accepted him. When the people of Nineveh repented, God accepted their repentance and brought them out of captivity. So is it with every man who turns with his whole heart and soul to God, and forsakes his sins. There is no ground for forgiveness until there is true repentance. David tried that with Absalom. Absalom went off and came back, and David wouldn't see him, probably because somebody had told him that Absalom hadn't really repented. Then he sent for Joab after he had been in Jerusalem two years, to come and see him, and he sent the second time, and still he didn't come. Then he said, "You go over and set Joab's barley on fire." And that brought him. And Absalom said: "I sent for you to go to the King, and I want you to tell him, that if there is any iniquity in me, I want him to tell me; and if not, I want him to forgive." That's the self-righteous Pharisee—"Lord, if there is any iniquity in me, tell me." Ah! I think David never made a greater mistake than when he sent for that boy. But the King sent for him and Absalom came, and he forgave him with a kiss of reconciliation; and that was forgiveness on a false foundation. What was the result? In a very short time that young man drove him from the throne. So if God was to forgive you without the proper ground of repentance, it would do you more harm than good.

NOW, LET US LOOK INTO OUR FAMILY,

for God dealeth with us as with a son. Suppose you had a son, and he told you a cool, calm, deliberate lie. You call the boy to you, and you want him to confess," and he says, "I won't confess." "But," you say, "my son, my servants saw you do it." And still he won't confess it, and you say, "Well, my son, I'll forgive you." That isn't a good ground of reconciliation, is it? It won't be long before the child is ruined. One thing is sure, my friend, if God is going to forgive us our sins, we have got to repent of our sins and turn from them. "Let the wicked forsake his ways." Not only must we forsake our sins, but we must bring forth fruits meet for repentance. I don't know who the young man was who went to his employer the other morning and said; "There's the money I took from you some years ago," but that is bringing forth fruits meet for repentance. We have not only got to forgive our sins, but if we have injured any one, if we have slandered them and caused them to suffer, we must make restitution so far as we can. And when we bring forth such fruits, men will have confidence in our Christianity. I heard of a man who had four of his neighbour's sheep stray in among his own, and he took the mark off them and kept them. When he got converted, those four sheep troubled him. And don't think you are going to have peace with God if you've four sheep that belong to somebody else, or have put somebody else's money in your pocket. At last this man got so troubled that he

COULDN'T ATTEND THE COMMUNION SERVICE,

and he went over to his neighbour and said, "Four of your sheep got over into my flock and I took the mark off them and kept them. There is the money for them with interest." That neighbour believed he was a Christian after that. I heard of another man who got into the Tabernacle down here on Tremont Street, and we