

Meanwhile the six millions of people waited under the lash of the task-master for his development. No Moses can gain such a quality at too great a price. Any Jonah can afford the tempest and the horror of the great deep to win the power to speak at Nineveh.

In this stage every one easily sees that fear of punishment and punishment have place ; and since all punishment is future at the time of decision to obey or disobey, the question as to how far in the future need not be raised.

The next stage of development demands an embodiment of precepts. Immaturity demands a leader. Conscious of inability to devise and execute, youth gives all its ardor and energy to one whom it believes able to devise and execute. Garibaldi finds followers among boys and young men. They need an outlet for energies. Set it before them, and there is no limit to their dash and effort.

It is at this time that the word is "follow Me." Desire for statement of reasons may be rebuked. "What is that to thee? Follow thou Me." The first and second stage, obedience and imitation, are blended in, "what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter" if obedient.

The third stage is knowledge, understanding of law, acceptance of it, and a willingness to do it because of its recognized advantages.

A man is to be dealt with according to the stage he is in. He is in the first longer than most of us think. Indeed, he is always a babe in reference to God's highest and broadest law. Hence eight of the ten commandments are arbitrary for all men and all times. Reason is always arguing out exceptions and modifications to each of these laws ; but one well-trained in youth to fall in, and come to "attention" without pause or question, is safe when questions such as those of Sabbath-breaking and unlawful pleasures arise. Besides our mere lack of knowledge in these matters, we are perversely ignorant. We do not like to retain God in our thought. As long as this is true, punishment must be threatened.

This is the way God teaches in nature. Any one who is to be erect must give instant and unthinking obedience to the law of gravitation. He has been trained by fear of bumps and falls till obedience has been worked, outside of thought, into muscles. Conformity to the law of food supply has been developed by the punishment of hunger. Fear of this punishment leads to the hoarding of food and of the means of buying it, till some men might feed an army.

Christ worked along the same line. His words of warning are beyond compare severe. "Ye spawn of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" He was not content with words. He took a doubled rope, and with the vigor of perfect strength made it hiss through the air and fall hot on the shoulders and legs of those thieves in the temple. It is no use to set such men an example of trading outside ; no use to reason with them. They had reasoned this matter out and on their side. The only