

raged, hopeless, dejected? Are we not forgetting again when we grow careless and indifferent to this His great work, the work He has instituted His Church to carry out?

Let us now consider "what should be our motives in trying to further mission work." I think two motives will cover all the ground. Love to God should begin and continually inspire our actions. Love to our fellow-man should stimulate us as we proceed. When we love anyone how do we show it? Why, you say, by trying to please the loved one. You know we are never so happy as when we can do something to serve those whom we love. And what reward do we ask for if we love truly? We crave nothing so much, nothing in comparison with the smile of the loved one. Then let us apply this test to our love for God. Without love in our hearts towards God we are not able to serve Him acceptably. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." And Jesus came to earth to reveal the Father in His character of love, that our hearts might be so overwhelmed by those sublime glimpses of His overpowering love that we could not refrain from pouring them out in gratitude to our Father and His love. The very first requisite in beginning work of this kind is that love to God should prompt it, for no other motive can be acceptable before God. (Going a step further, if we love God we will be anxious to obey and please Him, just as we love to serve our loved ones on earth, so that when we hear His voice, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," our hearts leap to obey His command, and as many of us are so circumstanced that we cannot go, we turn with eager desire to help those who have gone.)

And now, what reward will we desire for all our labor? Truly the smile of the loved one, the approval of our Father. And, dear sisters, we will have His approval if we are doing this work in this spirit of love to Him. But to do it in this spirit of love we will have much to contend with. We will need to keep very near to God in prayer and meditation to continue in this work with this pure motive, to keep our zeal from flagging, and our love from cooling. If we do not, false evil motives will creep in, indifferences will cool our hearts, and we will either drop this work or go on inspired by other than this one true motive, which will be more, abundantly more, than a sufficient reward for anything that we can do for Him. Let me urge you then to lay this matter before God, praying without ceasing that He will increase all our love for Him until this love burns with a purer, steadier flame, that He will show us when and where and how we can work for Him, and give us grace to do this work acceptably. There is a second motive which should stimulate us in this missionary work—love to our fellow-man; but this love to our brother is, after all, just the test of our love to God, for St. John says, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

And Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." You all know how we desire to minister to those whom we love. God planted that desire in our hearts, and He also gave us the means of fulfilling that desire even in our love to Him. He does not live on earth now; we sometimes feel as if He was far away, but He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto Me." He has left His family here on earth and commanded each of them to show her or his love to Him by being loving and gentle and tender to the others. Or, as a writer beautifully puts it, and ponder these his words well, and carry them away in your

hearts to con over daily: "The greatest service we can do for our Heavenly Father is to be kind and loving to one of His other children." So if we declare we do love God, we must be willing to stand this test and show our love by giving help to our fellow-man. Here in this missionary work we are confronted with our brothers and sisters dying in darkness and despair, with arms outstretched to us for help and comfort, and remember, God has made us their stewards by giving us the light and Gospel privileges we do enjoy. How awful the consequences in the day of judgment if we have not proved faithful stewards! How shall we face a just God and our fellow-men, who will both accuse us of neglect and selfishness? Every heathen who dies without hearing the glad story of the Gospel will have a most just accusation against so-called Christians who have selfishly shut up their hearts and refused to reply to their piteous cry, "Come over and help us." "Send those to us who will shed light on the future;" "Tell us the story of the Saviour who died for us." Oh, may we remember that they are God's children just as truly as we are, and that He will punish us for the great wrong we do them if we are indifferent to their cry. God is very tender to the oppressed, but very stern with the oppressor. Read the Gospels, and our Saviour's life will teach you that most emphatically.

Let each one of us ask herself, "Did I enter upon this mission work from love to God and a desire to please Him?" If each can answer faithfully "yes," let her again ask herself, "Are love to God and love to my brothers and sisters, His children, my only motives now, and are these motives stimulating me daily to greater zeal in this cause?" Happy are we if we can honestly answer "yes" to these questions, both now and in the day of judgment. For how sad if any of us should be rejected because our motives were impure and false. Let us be very diligent, dear sisters, that after we labor to send the Gospel to our brothers and sisters in heathen darkness, we ourselves be not castaways.

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