

beauty, and flooded the air with light—that He might become one with *us* in all the experiences that come to us from the cradle to the grave. He can sympathize with the weaknesses of childhood, and with the temptations of youth; He knows the craftiness of our adversary and the weakness of our flesh, for was He not touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was He not in *all* points tempted like as we are?

While He lived those precious years on earth, how His heart went out in pity for the suffering and sympathy for the sorrowing! How His hand brought healing and His teaching peace! How He ministered to the wants of the hungry and destitute! How tender was His compassion for the weary and heavy-laden! How wonderfully He comforted those who were bereft! In times of joy as well as sorrow we find Him mingling with the people, sanctifying the feast, and hallowing the marriage ceremony by His presence. In the common every-day occurrences of life, the little things that go to make up the days, His love made service sweet. Hurrying, worrying, toiling Marthas, and earnest, thoughtful, seeking Marys alike might profit by His loving counsel. In the crowded streets of busy towns, in lonely desert places, or by the quiet sea whither the multitudes followed Him, at the feast of the haughty pharisee, or sitting at meat with the despised publican, everywhere He walked and talked with men, everywhere comforting, cheering, blessing. Those who sought healing crowded about Him to touch the hem of His garment; often when the people thronged and pressed Him on every side He was obliged to find a breathing space in the little boat near the water's edge, while His great audience stood on the shore; many a time needed food and rest were forgotten, so absorbed was he in giving health to diseased bodies and sin-sick souls. Never a moment alone except when He sought the Father's presence on the dark mountain side while the world lay wrapped in slumber at His feet. No life was ever so beautiful, so full of self-denial, so grand! Thank God that the only-begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father has thus declared Him!

But there came a time when this wondrous revelation of God, this life of God among men, must be ended. The great work for which He came into the world must be accomplished in His death. For those who loved Him it was *so* hard to comprehend: should He who had given life to the dead be Himself subject to death? He who had the very forces of nature under His control, was it possible that any harm could come to Him? Honored and revered by the multitudes who were ready to crown Him king at the very zenith of His influence and power, was it possible that He would yield Himself to die? They protested, "Far be it from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee." In

the event of His death what was to become of the great kingdom they had hoped to see established, and in which they expected to share? Ah! they did not understand that His kingdom was not of this world. That He, going from them, could still be *with* them. Seeing Him betrayed in the garden and led away to the Judgment Hall, their courage failed them, they all forsook Him and fled. Hoping against hope, they watched, secretly and in trembling, from afar, that mockery of a trial. Hoping against hope, they saw Him come forth bearing His cross. Even while His suffering body hung between the two thieves on Calvary, surely they hoped that He would work the most stupendous miracle of all, and come down from the cross itself to defy His enemies and prove His divine power. But when they saw the body, from which, unmistakably, the life had gone out, laid away in Joseph's sepulchre, then all their hopes died and were buried with Him. The disappointment was overwhelming, for they had trusted "that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel."

But the end was not yet; after that short interval of darkness and despair there came the joy of the resurrection, the blessed days of communion and fellowship with the risen Lord, the glory of the ascension, and the fulfilment of the promise given during the last hours of His earthly life. When He went back to His father He did not leave us comfortless. We, His disciples of to-day, can be just as sure of His tender, loving sympathy, His guidance, counsel and support, as were those who, in the days of His flesh, looked upon His face, felt the touch of His hand, and heard the music of His voice. He is *with* us to-day to comfort and bless, with us in a nearer, more intimate sense than when He lived as man among men, for has it not been said that we are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in us? May He grant unto us, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fulness of God!

"When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses and chariots and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is *with* thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." "Be strong, and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

"Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid,