

moral systems are composed. To do good to others; to sacrifice for their benefit your own wishes; to love your neighbour as yourself; to forgive your enemies; to restrain your passions; to honour your parents; to respect those who are set over you; these and a few others are the sole essentials of morals; but they have been known for thousands of years and not one jot or tittle has been added to them by all the sermons, homilies and text-books which moralists and theologians have been able to produce."

There is a sense in which this is true, as is clear from the fact that every branch of the Christian Church to-day bases its chief ethical teaching on the decalogue. Even the twofold law of love to God and love to man is already found in the Pentateuch, and nearly all the best sayings of Jesus have parallels more or less close in the independent teachings of heathenism. We may be thankful that it is so, for it means that every generation of mankind in the world's history has had light enough as to its duty to guide it aright in the main when rightly disposed.

But there are many important respects in which it is not at all true that no progress has been made in the understanding of morality. There are many matters which, indeed, have always been tolerably clear to any who wished to know the truth, but there are many others which have been in dispute and were settled only gradually as the result of experience or of some great leader's insight. There are problems in practical ethics which are still unsettled to the satisfaction of all earnest Christian people in this the beginning of the twentieth century, and may not be wholly cleared up for a long while to come. Sheldon, in his famous book entitled "What would Jesus do?" aimed to unfold some of the practical applications of Jesus' principles to the conditions of our time. Every one admits that he has started some questions which will have to be faced sooner or later. Few are quite clear that he has answered them beyond the need of further discussion.

Now it will scarcely be denied that Christ and his Apostles contributed not a little to the practical solution of some of