

So it is with the words of Christ. Never man spake like this man. Like flowers hidden amid rocks, they often surprise us with their unexpected glories. When we are in receptive moods we can better appreciate them. How sweet are His gracious invitations to the poor, the heavy laden sinner burdened in his heart with his past. The words of Jesus are sweeter than music. They ring like silver bells. How precious are His assured promises of peace and help, when we know that they can be at once cashed. His revelations of His Father's love and His own, addressed to my soul, what irresistible power do they possess. Use makes them familiar to us, but only richer. They bear repetition. They suit all our moods. They are intrinsically and perpetually fresh. They are living fountains, rising from marvellous depths. The words of Christ are all original. He stamps them with a coinage of his own. They are unborrowed and unquoted. They are both human and divine. As mountains have a grandeur which little molehills have not; as great oceans have a magnificence which ponds have not, so it is with the words of Christ. They are very simple but they are powerful lenses in helping us to wonderful visions.

2. Take the *character* of Christ. Here there are unsearchable riches. We have four marvellous delineations of this character. One might have sufficed if God had so pleased. In the Gospel of John there is enough to lead all the world to the Savior. And enough too to expand the soul with sublimest revelations, as well as to train the heart and life in all that is pure and exalted. But there are unsearchable riches in Christ, and so we have four holy Gospels full of simplicity and heavenliness. We have Christ not on one side, but on all sides, in his inner nature and outer life. This diamond has many faces, and it is the purest the world ever saw.

His character also is *self-revealing*. In many biographies of eminent persons we have at the close a summing up of the character, an enumeration of the various excellences of the person, and comparisons instituted with others. But in these four simple Gospels we have no such comparisons. All is written with the utmost simplicity. The life of Christ grows as the flowers come out of the swelling buds and receive their tints from the sun. His life comes gently as the dawn comes; and as the dawn opens up to the fuller morning and to the brightest day, so this wonderful character gradually reveals itself from glory to glory.

The depths of His character cannot be fathomed in his gentleness,