

pect that their religion has been left in the city, packed away with their fashionable outfits in the closely-shuttered mansion, to be donned again at the opening of the "season." My friend, you had better take no holidays than leave Jesus Christ behind, and where you cannot take Christ you had better not go.

The multitude, having witnessed the departure by boat of Jesus and the twelve, followed around the bend of the sea to meet them at their landing place. Jesus, having reached the Bethsaida shore, looked up and beheld a vast multitude crowding after him to hear the Word of Life. Mark tells us that, "Moved with compassion, he taught them many things." Matthew says that "he healed their sick." Luke tells how that "He received them, and spake unto them of the Kingdom of God and healed them that had need of healing." That is, he continued his work of mercy notwithstanding that he and his apostles were weary and had need of rest.

What an impressive scene that was! I think it was McCheyne who said that he never looked upon a great crowd without being deeply moved. On shallow and selfish minds the sight would probably produce no deeper impression than would the flitting of a shadow, but in the mind of Jesus, who understood the motive of everyone; who discerned the inarticulate longings, the undefined desires and, above all, the dire needs of all, it stirred the depths of pity and compassion. Five thousand!—nay, more than that. "Five thousand men, besides women and children," says Matthew. If there were five thousand men it is safe to say that there were more than that many women, for women are usually in the majority in such gatherings. There may just chance to have wandered into this assembly the little man who affects to sneer about there being "more women than men in the churches." I will say nothing of the poor compliment he pays to his own manhood. I will not remark on the motive or desire which may prompt the jibe. You take me to the door of a church and ask me to look within and you say, "there are more women than men there." But I will conduct you to the door of another institution, and I will ask you to look within; and you will observe, as you do so, that there are more men than women in that institution. And the name of that institution is the *penitentiary*. Yes; there are more women than men in the churches, and more men than women in the penitentiaries and, unquestionably, there is a connection between the two facts. It is not worth sneering about. Is it?

So, then, it must have been a vast multitude. It must have been an impressive sight. And, as Jesus beheld them pressing around him, he was deeply moved. Instead of being irritated at the interruption, he was moved with compassion. What would have annoyed and disturbed a mere man, stirred in the God-man his mighty master-passion,—pitying love.

1. I ask you to contemplate, in the first place, the *objects* of Jesus' com-