

the joy of the promise, the consciousness that the ascended Jesus was to mean more, infinitely more to them than the Jesus with whom they had walked and talked face to face.

We know that the disciples many many times did not understand their Master. They walked with Him. They talked with Him. They shared his meals. But did they understand Jesus? Would they not have called down fire from heaven upon their opponents? Did they not argue as to who among them would hold those favoured seats on his right hand and on his left. Did their hearts not crave for all the outer trappings of glory? Were their minds not centered rather on the mansions than on the Father's house? Did they not wish to use force to save Him, who was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When all hope of an earthly kingdom failed, when the hosannas had become hisses and friends had turned foes, when He was despised and rejected of men, did they not say in word or in deed: "We know Him not." Even after the joy of the resurrection and in the sweet fellowship of those last talks, what did they ask, "Lord, wilt thou establish the kingdom in Israel?" Had they yet caught the vision of those other sheep for whom Jesus prayed? Did the hearts yearn for those stern-visaged Romans or those dark-faced Africans? Or had the thought of the vast multitudes of teeming humanity that thronged the edges of civilization entered their consciences? No, as Jesus was about to leave them, their last question was, "Lord, wilt thou at this time, establish the kingdom in Israel?" Their thoughts were still bounded by Israel; Israel was the limit of their vision, while He looked far into the future, seeing the work of the Spirit grow and gather strength in the hearts of men.

Did they find Him again? Was the cloud which parted Him from them ever rent asunder? Yes, they found Him, found Him in the fetid prison as they had never found Him, while He stood a man among them; knew Him in the communion on the quiet housetop, as they had never known Him, by the lake of Galilee, praised Him as he led them on in service, as they had never praised

Him in the days of loud Hosannas, loved Him as they had never loved Him when they said, "Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus became Immanuel—"God with us." The kingdom of God became not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. They knew they had found something. To the lame they said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto Thee." To the leaders of the church they said boldly, "Neither is there salvation in any other name given under heaven given among men, whereby we may be saved." "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." How eloquently they pleaded for the Gentiles, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us, and put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith." To his brethren who also loved Christ, Peter wrote, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious,"—"Unto you therefore, which believe, He is precious." "Wherefore ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts." As those once craven disciples stood before priest and prince, as they went about telling of Jesus and His love, as they sang in prison, even as one earned his daily bread at the humble task of tent-making, Jesus came and walked beside them, becoming their Rock, their Shield, their High Tower, the bright and morning Star, the Glory that illumined the darkest way before them. Among the sayings of Jesus, these words are said to be found,

"Raise the stone and thou shalt find Me,
Cleave the wood and I am there."

"Never in a costly palace, did I rest on golden bed,

Never in a hermit's cavern, have I eaten idle bread.

Born within a lowly stable, where the cattle round Me stood,

Trained a carpenter in Nazareth, I have toiled, and found it good.