

consider what it was they should like most, and then to ask for it in Jesus' name, trusting to his promise that it would be given to them. At the end of the service, the little boy asked his aunt if she had asked for anything; then she asked him what he had asked God to give him, and he said, "I thought first of one thing I should like, and then another, but I did not know which would be best to ask, and so I said, 'Father, thy will be done.'"

"PLEASED NOT HIMSELF."

Two of the children had gone to bed. Ellen still sat in her mother's lap, although she was quite a large girl. She seemed to have something in particular to say; for this mother always encouraged her children to tell her fully all about themselves. At last she said, "Mother, I have thought a great deal about what you read to us a little while ago, how Jesus 'pleased not himself.'"

"I am very glad you did, my dear; I hope you will try to be like him."

"Mother," said the child, choking, "I *do* try to, for I saw, after I went to bed that night, that I was just contrary to it. Tom and Jane called me disobliging, and so do the girls at school; and, mother, it is because I like to please *myself* best."

"That is very sad," said the mother, seriously.

"Very, mother," answered Ellen. "I felt it was; and I did wish, I *do* wish to be less like myself, and more like Jesus. Well, it seems to me, by striving I shall, I *really* shall. Yesterday, you know, I went to grandma's, and grandma always wants us to do something for her. Tom and Jane like to, but I don't very well. When I went yesterday, I wanted to feel *obliging* and

do *willingly* what grandma wanted me to. I wanted to please her more than myself; so before I lifted up the latch, I just went under the lilac tree and prayed. I kept asking the Lord Jesus to make me like himself, that I might not please myself, but him. Then I went into the house, and pretty soon I saw grandma wanted something. I knew what was coming, and said, as quick as could be, 'Yes, grandma, I'll get it for you;' and, mother, she thanked me. All along as I went to get it, I *felt beautifully*. It is a great deal better not to try to please yourself."

What an affecting scene is this! "For even Christ pleased not himself" "I came," he says, "not to do mine own will, but the will of the Father who sent me." It is this *forgetfulness of self* which is the very marrow of the Christian spirit, as well as the essence of all true politeness. Lord Chesterfield says, "Politeness is benevolence in little things." Lord Chesterfield was a worldly man, and only acted upon worldly principles; but you see, in describing that which should regulate our behaviour towards each other, how he copies a great Bible principle. A disobliging, selfish, conceited spirit is neither Christian nor polite; it is unlovely every way, and as unhappy as it is unlovely. Ellen saw and felt this; she grieved over it, and was anxious to improve; she was not contented with merely wishing, but the dear child acted accordingly. She asked her mother to help her; but the greatest help of all was her heavenly helper, Jesus Christ. In the hour of temptation she went to him under the lilac tree, and he met her there. He gave her his Spirit; and it was a willing spirit, a kind spirit, a benevolent spirit, a self-forgetting spirit—oh, it was a beautiful spirit!