

the successful occupancy of the promised inheritance, and his work was done, and well done. It mattered little who the leader was, since the people were now in a condition to take possession and hold it. God knows best when his servants can be spared, and they are immortal until their work is done.

In the case of Barnabas God has so far departed from His usual method as to pay His servant this high compliment "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith." Here is a Divine recognition of the excellence of human character. This is not flattery. When God eulogizes man we may be sure that he is worthy of it. The grandest thing in this universe in God's estimation is a good man. This is the only standard by which he judges men. The human standard differs from the Divine in this respect. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart." The young man who came to the Son of God enquiring the way of life possessed traits of moral excellence, which made him the subject of the Saviour's love. He was not perfect. There was room for improvement; but he was not wholly bad.

Barnabas "was a good man." By this it is not meant that he was a perfect man; but the excellencies of his character so far excelled his imperfections that the Divine verdict is that "he was a good man." No higher compliment could have been paid him.

I am fully aware that I have not chosen the text that our departed brother would have selected for himself. In his own estimation he was an unworthy child of the King. But those who knew him best will agree with me that he was a man to whom this Scripture will apply