

not so good then as it will be when it is yellow to the harvest and is crowned by a cluster of golden grain. So with morality. It is not to be despised, but it is not enough ; the moral man is good so far as he goes, but he has not yet nearly reached the full measure of his development. Morality may pay, or try to pay, the debt we owe to our fellow-man ; but it leaves our account with God unsettled. It does not raise a man above his selfishness, his self-seeking, his worldliness ; and therefore when a man says, as we sometimes hear thoughtless men say : "If I live here as good as my neighbors, pay my debts, never wrong any one in a business transaction, give something to the church and to benevolent institutions, take the sacraments perhaps, God will not cast me off on that great day," he is simply lulling himself into the sleep of death, into which sooner or later terrible dreams will come. Such a man may be wrapped up in his coarse narrow selfishness, or he may be a selfish man of great refinement ; at any rate he is essentially selfish and is therefore evidently unfit for the kingdom of heaven. It is not simply that God will not allow him to enter, but he has not the character necessary to admit him ; he naturally and therefore necessarily cannot enter. "The kingdom of God is within you ;" but it is evidently not within a man of that selfish stamp. And, therefore, while we give mor-

ality which is humble its due, yet we must remember that morality, when proud and self-reliant, is most dangerous to the soul and reprehensible in the sight of God. The man who is trusting to his arrogant morality to save his soul is much farther from the kingdom of heaven, Jesus said, than are those persons of degrading passions, of flagrant immorality. "The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of heaven before you Scribes and Pharisees." That is to say—and it is an awful warning—there is really less hope for the salvation of a man who is moral and yet proud enough to think that his morality will save him, than there is hope for the salvation of the wandering prostitute on the street. The publicans and the harlots—the very essence of animal impurity—go into the kingdom of heaven, Jesus said, before you men and women who are living spotless lives so far as the eye of man can see, and yet who are proud enough, to think that your good works will serve as a vehicle to heaven. So far, so hopelessly far, may a very moral man yet be from the kingdom of heaven !

III. What then besides morality is necessary? Conversion alone is sufficient. "Go, sell whatsoever thou hast and give to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in heaven ; and come, follow me." And what is conversion? It is a radical change of life ; not merely an ex-