

calling into operation both mental and spiritual powers. And it wins our sympathy because it receives illumination and enforcement from our daily life. But the real worth of the parable is not in the story, but in the underlying fact concerning the nature and will of God which it reveals and impresses. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, for instance, it is not the beautiful Eastern story which does us good, but the revelation it conveys of the persistent love of God. It is this truth that the Saviour breathes into us through the veil of the parable.

Inferior in value to parables as containing much less moral force, we may, for instance, consider the institutions of Moses in regard to the tenure of land. Christian civilization, under the domination of the spirit of Roman law, regarded the regulations of Moses as antiquated, inexplicable, and to be put away with the lumber of a bygone age. But since Henry George has expounded his theory of a single tax on land, the Mosaic political economy has sprung into importance, and has been the means of drawing believers in the single tax to the Holy Book; and if through these laws of Moses the great truth of the divine care for the human family becomes impressed upon the social reformers of our age, even these ancient portions of the Scripture will be found to be full of moral force. And, frankly, I dare not draw the line and say that anywhere in the Bible there are writings under which we cannot find inspired truth for the regulation of life and the development of character.

We may have been too eager to assimilate the Word of God, and because we have found certain portions which are not food for us or for our age, we may have too hastily concluded that it had not been and never would be food for the race at any particular point in its history. The knowledge of the Word of God can only become truth to the individual in the presence of a hungry demand for it, for that only is truth which passes through the chemical process of digestion and builds up character. And we know not but before the world's history is complete some spiritual purpose will be incidentally served by every statement which the Book contains. It is altogether too early in the day to declare that any portion of the Bible is useless. Heaven and earth may pass away, but not one jot or one tittle of the law till all be fulfilled.