

able he spake  
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open my mouth  
e been kept se-  
"A method of  
of interest,—a  
ty and finish,  
speech,—would  
are the crowds  
CHRIST, p. 152.

union of sim-  
ificance. "My  
common people  
understood by  
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known, for his  
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nity alone will

reveal their significance. Jesus never spoke in the learned phrases of the schools ; he never quotes from Plato, or Aristotle, or Virgil, or any of the teachers of philosophy ; his wisdom and his words are all his own. Nor did the Great Teacher ever do what some ministers complain of being compelled to do, viz. : condescend to the intellectual level of their hearers, greatly exercised because they have no opportunity for displaying their learning, their hearers being illiterate. Jesus stood among his hearers, and used homely comparisons, and familiar illustrations drawn from the life and manners of the common people who heard him gladly. The message he bore was designed for all classes, hence he spoke to the universal heart, and through this channel of common, familiar, everyday speech, there flowed the riches of Divine grace into the hearts of the people. "Yet how exquisitely and freshly simple is the actual language of Christ compared with all other teaching that has ever gained the ear of the world ! There is no science in it, no art, no pomp of demonstration, no carefulness of toil, no trick of rhetoricians, no wisdom of the schools. Straight as an arrow to the mark, his precepts pierce to the very depths of the soul and spirit. All is short, clear, precise, full of holiness, full of the common images of daily life. There is scarcely a scene or object familiar to the Galilee of that day, which Jesus did not use as a moral illustration of some glorious promise or moral law. He spake of green fields and springing flowers, and the budding of vernal trees ; of the red and lowering sky ; of sunrise and sunset ; of wind and rain ; of night and storm ; of clouds and lightning ; of stream and river ; of stars and lamps ; of honey and salt ; of quivering bulrushes and burning weeds ; of