

power, otherwise your labours will all be in vain. He will never ask you to go alone to meet any duty or trial. He is always near. Sad, indeed, and desponding, would be the thoughts of the pastor, situated as you now are, in view of labours and responsibilities so awfully solemn, were it possible to suppose that the promise could fail. But this cannot be supposed. Here we have a certainty, firm, sure, and everlasting: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This is sufficient.—Labouring with Christ, and walking with Christ, and we have guidance, and strength, and wisdom; and our labour, whether we see it ourselves or not, shall be crowned with success. Dear brother, see that your heart be set upon this. Be resolved never to attempt any work without the presence of your Master. Every such attempt will prove a miserable failure. But, if you would wish His presence and His aid in your labours, you must be very often with Him in your secret closet. Here is the secret of His people's strength. In the solitary closet they receive what enables them to appear and act before the world, in a way different from the rest of men; and here certainly is the source of the pastor's success in his labours. The blessing of God will not be withheld from the labours of him who has daily intercourse with his Master. Thus alone can you be prepared to meet your people, as truly the minister of Christ, both in the pulpit and from house to house; thus will your heart be warmed with love to their immortal souls, and will you convince them that you do love and sincerely seek their welfare. When Moses came down from the mount, where he had been in communion with the God of Israel, we read that a glory rested upon his countenance, which impressed with reverence and awe those who beheld it. They saw and felt that he was indeed the man of God, and that his counsel and rebuke could not be safely despised. If you would move and act among your flock, so as to secure their reverence and win their hearts to receive your instructions, you must always go to meet them, down from the mount of communion with God, the secret closet, where Christ and your soul shall have fellowship together.

The office of the ministry is, by many now among us, not regarded with the reverence with which in other days it was esteemed. What are ministers but men, and what are they better than others? is language frequently heard. True, they are but men, and as men must be, they are frail and imperfect; but the lips from which such language as this is heard, declare that the Master as well as his frail servant is disregarded. These are words which will never be heard from him who truly values the offer of the gospel and has embraced it. While every such man knows that the treasure is in earthen vessels, and while he has ceased from man and looks to Him who retains the excellency of the power in His own hands, he yet will esteem the minister of Christ very highly in love for his work's sake.

Aware that this spirit is abroad in the world, and that the eyes of man are fixed upon us with the secret wish to make the most of our inconsistencies and to employ it to the reproach of our high and holy calling, we should find in it a motive of the strongest nature to increase our watchfulness, and lead us to more earnest pleading for the grace which will enable us always, and in every place and company, to act in the character and in the spirit and temper becoming the ambassadors of Christ. To the extent to which the minister of Christ will be enabled thus to imitate the Heavenly example set before him, will be the real influence for good and the true and lasting esteem he will secure. Bear this ever in mind, that just in proportion as the spirit of your Master appears in all your actions, will be the real respect cherished for you by those who hear your words and witness your doings. There is a serious difficulty, and in no country more so than in ours, in observing the just medium between the extreme gravity never relaxed, and which is morose and repulsive, and the other excess which leads down to the ever-easy and smiling familiarity that makes the servant of Christ a companion liked by all, but secures the real