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BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM.

The obligation to work in promoting the spread of the Gospel rests on the command of the Lord Jesus. A beginning being made it became evident that the work was to be continued. The setting up of the system of Christianity was not meant to be the goal, but rather the starting point in the career of the world's regeneration. Truth was thus to obtain a foothold which it should retain and improve until all nations would do homage unto the Lord. From Jerusalem the word sounded out, and now in this far-off land many blessings are enjoyed through the Gospel. Light is shining, still it has not reached every dark spot, it has not penetrated every heart. Hence the prosecution of the Home Missionary work with zeal and faith is the fulfillment of Christ's command. In view of our position and the solemn truths of our religion, we are called to labour for souls. Sacrifices are made in every struggle for human freedom, let the value attached by the ransomed people of God to the glorious liberty which is their's, appear in acts of love, striving to win sinners to Jesus.

A sense of the importance of home missionary work is conveyed to our minds by the charge to begin at Jerusalem. Those who received the charge were Jewish men. Their souls were roused to care for their fellow countrymen. A field for cultivation lay at the very door. It was not necessary to pass over hundreds or thousands of miles in order to reach objects of compassion. There, in that holy city, the place of offering, the site of the gorgeous temple, where Moses' seat was, there ground was to be broken for the erection of a holy temple composed of living stones, built up a spiritual house for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Though there were thronging crowds of religious professors, the circumstance was not to startle them from their work, for the necessities of the multitude were urgent, the cup of iniquity was full, the Lord of life had by wicked hands been crucified. To Jerusalem sinners, in illustration of the spirit of the gospel, first proclaim its pardoning grace. "God's ways are not as our ways, his thoughts are not as our thoughts," and therefore brightly shone the light of mercy in the blood stained capital of Judea. Great sinners have words addressed to them in the gospel. Perishing men wherever they are should have the word preached to them. Hence we ought to weigh well the relative claims of different parts of the field of missions. The foreign field is most wide. The cry from millions is—come over and help us. Who dare refuse to hear that cry? But there is a cry at our doors, in our day, in our land, and in our streets. Are we to pass by those who are ready to perish because they are our neighbours?