

CHAPTER IV

CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

"THEN"—immediately after the opening to Him of the windows of heaven—the Son of God is led past the very mouth of hell! Before He wins a follower or utters a parable or performs an act of mercy, He is made to prove, by personal contact, the feeling and attitude of both these worlds. Assured of the Divine favour, He must next experience the subtle enmity of Satan. He must get clearly defined in His consciousness the line of battle which the foe has set in array against Him and determine the plan of action by which it shall be met.

The whole conflict in the wilderness was waged around the question of the use that Christ should make of His power.

It is always an epoch-making day in a young man's life when he definitely decides this question. If he can get this question