

if we choose any one of the saints of God as the pattern we desire to copy. If we do so we will be exceedingly apt to look upon their faults as excuses for our own; and very often we will not be able to find out whether a certain course of action is right or wrong. But no difficulty will be felt if we take Jesus as our example, for he is perfect. Following him, we shall be led into no path that is not in strict accordance with the law of God. It is most important that the model which is set before us should be perfect, because we generally fall below the standard we prescribe to ourselves. It is for this reason, we apprehend, that God has not set forth any of the sons of men as our example. By having one who is absolutely perfect as our example, we are prevented from being satisfied with the progress we have already made, and are invited to increased exertion in the path of duty.

2. The example of Jesus is calculated to exert an influence upon men, and consequently is adapted to their wants. Who are those that men are most likely to imitate? Those whom they love. Now suppose that we have a dear friend, one whom we love, and who loves us with a disinterested, self-sacrificing love, would we not be more likely to follow the example of such an one, than that of any other man? Nay, would it not be our earnest desire, our highest ambition, to be like such an one—to walk as he walked? And would it not pain and grieve us, were we, by our imprudent conduct, to give pain and grief to such a friend? Now let us apply this. Jesus is our friend—our best friend. What love can be compared unto his? Where shall we find more disinterested, self-sacrificing love, than that which dwells in the heart of Jesus? And who has done more to manifest that desire for our weal than he has done? Verily none. And hence we see the wisdom of appointing Jesus as our example; for if men obey the obligations of gratitude under which they lie, they will strive with all their energies to imitate him who has done so much for them. Christian reader, he whom you are called upon to imitate, is he who interposed in your behalf when there was no eye to pity, and no hand to help. It is he who took upon him your nature, and in your room satisfied the demands of justice. He it was that wrought out the perfect robe of righteousness, and thus opened Heaven's gates for you. Can you, then, refuse to imitate him when you remember his love to you? Your endeavours to walk as he walked, will just be in proportion to your love to him. If your love is strong and ardent, then it will be your earnest desire