

challenge of the spiritual and intellectual possessions with which He entered those forty days. Thirty years or thereabouts preceded the time in the wilderness, and they were spent in devotion to His home, in diligent study, in reflection on what He had observed and read, and in prayer. From the carpenter's shop and the countryside He borrowed the setting for many of the immortal parables, and infallible sayings recorded in the Gospel story. The literature at His service, chiefly the books of the Old Testament, He had read and made the subject of meditation and prayer. The proof of this is to be found in the discrimination apparent in His quotations from the Scriptures. They are chiefly from Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Book of Deuteronomy, books in which inspiration reaches the highest point attained by Old Testament writers. Reflection and meditation on the passages proclaiming the goodness, the holiness, and the loving-kindness of God, meant the assimilation of these sublime truths into the very texture of His intellectual and spiritual life. They shone with brilliance in life's firmament, and in the light of them He saw men both as they were and as God would have them be. Hence we find in His teaching principles that are eternal, even as God is eternal, and a spirit that transcends all human limitations because it is the spirit of God Himself. His life is supremely the abun-