

gracious light by the sturdy arm of the baptizer, while pearly drops glistened upon His sacred head, He was picturing His coming triumph over the grave, His resurrection from the tomb, His ascension to the free air and light of heaven, and His coronation at God's right hand. The baptism was a complete, dramatic portrayal of His sacrificial work.

From this we learn that the cross was not an afterthought of Christ's public career. He did not adopt it as a last resource after exhausting other means. It was not forced upon Him by the stress of unforeseen circumstances. The cross was carried in His heart consciously and constantly from the beginning. We do not know how early in those years at Nazareth the cross first swung into His line of vision, but one thing is certain, before He left His home He knew what the end would be. Before He stepped across the threshold of His public life He knew Himself to be the Lamb of God sealed for sacrifice.

In this view of the matter the baptism of Jesus was a challenge and defiance waved in the face of death. It was as though He, by that act, planted Himself in the very middle of the channel through