

## SERMON II.

### JESUS WORKING THE WORK OF GOD.

(Preached during the Lenten Ember Days.)

ST. MARK, vi. 31.

*"And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat."*

1. In the life of our Blessed Lord, after he had entered upon His public ministry of "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God," we have a truly astonishing example of the most fervent zeal, and the most untiring industry. No sooner had he been baptized, than He began the tour of Galilee, "preaching in every synagogue"—admired and glorified of all the people: for, in spite of the severity and spirituality of His teaching—so immensely different from the lax morality of the Pharisees, strict in nothing but an exterior ceremonial—He obtained a popularity entirely beyond what we should at all anticipate. Everywhere "the common people heard Him gladly." The multitudes that followed Him from city to city, that resorted to Him by the sea-side, that intruded upon His most solitary haunts, that thronged Him as He stood in their streets, that besieged the dwellings which He honored with His sacred Presence,—are undeniable proofs of the ascendancy He had gained over the popular mind.

All this, of course, exposed Him to inconveniences and labours: but these He was so far from shunning, that He rejoiced in them, as entirely coinciding with the gracious design of His mission amongst