

He traveled here in His ministerial work and labor. In verification of this assertion let me cite to you the awful scene in the wilderness of Judea immediately after His baptism. He fasted forty days. What for? To overcome the weaknesses that were upon him and that God's Holy Spirit might rest upon Him and fit Him for the stupendous work that was devolving upon Him to perform. And it was said that afterwards He was an hungered. Isn't that one of the traits of our character in this life? Do we not get hungry when we have nothing to eat for a few hours, or a few days, or a few weeks? That was what was the matter with Jesus.

His Baptism.

After His fasting, after His baptism, and after His going forward to the sons of men and confessing His dependence upon the divine storehouse, confessing that He should comply with the conditions prescribed in the law that God gave for the amelioration of the sons of men and the bringing of them up to the condition of the children of God, you remember that some then thought He was so good that He did not need to keep the law, and one by the name of John had said, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" But Jesus with all that holy humility that ever shone out in His life and character, that made Him so grand and pure, remarked: "Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." I submit for your consideration that if the Stainless One could not comply with the conditions and fulfill all righteousness without being baptized, that you, or I cannot. Why was He baptized? He took not on Himself the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham, and became like unto His brethren in all things. Do you not know that Jesus Christ had to die and that it would have been amen to Him if He had not complied with the conditions by which He might obtain the first resurrection?

Ministerial Work.

We present Him to you now in His ministerial work as a man. Watch Him as He goes down into Samaria with the rest of His disciples, and while He is journeying there, without purse or script, oftentimes with men so hungry that the disciples plucked food from a corn field that they might appease their hunger; O! how life-like that is! By and by they traveled along the dusty roads and Jesus gets weary, and sick, and weak, and they come to the famous place called Jacob's well. I want you to notice the evidence of humanity here. He said in effect something like this to the twelve: "You are strong and robust, while I am weary and weak, and the mission of life seems hard to bear. While I sit here you go into the city and buy meat." It seems to evidence the fact that He was so weary, and sick, and hungry that He could go no farther, and that they that were stronger than He went into the city to buy meat. The scriptural statement is: "Jesus being weary, he leaned upon the well." Is there a lesson here for you and me? While He is reclining upon that wellcurb, a woman appears, a poor child of earth. She needs help. He anticipates her wants, and though weary, and sick, and tired, with the great magnanimity that ever characterized His actions He began at once to administer to her the grandest and best of all earth's gifts. What a lesson to the elders to-day as they go out; oftentimes weary and sad, they think it is not worth while to preach when there is such a small congregation. Listen, if you will, to the sermon of sermons; one woman the congregation, Christ the elder, and as you think of this to-night, never refuse to tell the story of Jesus and His love wherever a human ear will bend to hear your statements.