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THE COMPASSION OF JESUS.

A SERMON

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Mark vi: 34-44.

THE outstanding feature in this miracle is the compassion of Jesus, and that is the theme which I propose to illustrate.

This is the only miracle recorded by all four Evangelists and there would seem, from this circumstance, to be something of unusual value and impressiveness in the lessons which it embodies. Its picturesqueness, no doubt, made a deep impression on the minds of those who witnessed it, and the rich display which it made of the Savior's kindness and love must have rendered it one of the most precious and ineffaceable of the "memories" of after years.

It is a parable as well as a miracle. It is not only a wonderful work of God, fitted to attest the divine mission of Him who wrought it; it is also an object-lesson laden with spiritual truth, and it is to the latter aspect of the transaction that I invite attention.

It is, indisputably, a miracle, and I hope the ingenious naturalizer will let my subject alone. One of the inscrutable things of these latter days is that apparently sane men should feel it incumbent upon them to explain, on the principles on which things usually occur, the miracles of Jesus Christ. Is not Omnipotence equal to any marvel recorded in the Bible? Does not the Biblical hypothesis cover the facts? And what more should any man ask? Certainly, no philosopher can ask more, but, unfortunately, all critics are not philosophers. The wonder is not how one possessing the character of Jesus Christ should work miracles; the wonder would be how such an one could move about in this world and not work miracles. The leader of modern agnosticism admits that a miracle must have been performed once, at least, in order to bring matter into existence. But, if a miracle occurred once, it can occur twice, and ten times, and a hundred times, and a thousand