

In perusing the following brief histories the reader will observe that the design of the compiler has not been to show forth one degree of holiness after another in an ascending scale; but rather to demonstrate that in a variety of characters, and under very varied circumstances, the results of true consecration are essentially the same.

Much new teaching might be drawn from other lives, while to make the circle of experience in any degree complete would be manifestly impossible. And this incompleteness is increased by the fact that many women's lives, which might present most helpful phases of experience, leave no record behind.

After alluding to the more prominent lives of Christian women, an American divine thus writes of those who work unseen beyond their own little circles: "And many other modest, obscure, hidden ones, whose biographies the world will never see in print, will stand among the crowned ones in glory," adding "they did what they could." And what more appreciative words can be written of a woman's devotion to her Lord, than these words used by the Saviour Himself concerning the woman who brought her gift of fragrant ointment to anoint His head, causing Him to exclaim, "She hath done what she could."

Her offering could not be hidden from Him who saw not only the outward gift, but the inward attitude of the heart which prompted it, which could alone make it of value in His sight "to whom *all* hearts are open, all desires known."

It is surely for the encouragement of all women that, "throughout the whole world," the simple outcome of this woman's love to her Lord has, by His command, been "spoken of for a memorial of her."

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