

confessing Him. There was a man in our country some years ago who got so full of Christ that he could not hold his enthusiasm. He got a dry goods box to stand on and commenced preaching on the street corners. There he stood, proclaiming the glad tidings, when there came along one of these free-thinkers who said, "Young man you should be ashamed of yourself, standing there and talking such stuff as that." The young man answered, "I am ashamed of myself, but I am not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ." That young man had got it just right. He was ashamed of himself but he was not ashamed of Jesus Christ. Just turn to the 9th chapter of St. Luke, where he teaches us plainly that we cannot be His disciples without first taking up the cross. He said to them, "If any man will come after Me, let him take up his cross daily and follow Me; for whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." I do not think there is a man in this audience but understands what He means. If we are to be His disciples let every man go out and proclaim it. He said, "Go home, tell your friends what great things the Lord has done for you." What would you say of a soldier who would like to enlist in Queen Victoria's army, but who did not want to put on the red coat? There are a great many who would like to get into Christ's army, but they do not want to put on the Christian's uniform. What would you say of a man who would like to be a policeman but did not want to put on the policeman's garb, did not want anyone to know that he was a policeman? Would he be fit for the place? You know you would not have him. If we are going to serve Jesus Christ we have to take a stand and come out and identify ourselves with Him and His work. If there is any odium to be cast upon the cause of Christ you should take your share of it. I was visiting where a meeting had been in progress for several days without making much headway, when one day a prominent business man said that if he were to be a true disciple of Christ he should come out and take his share of the odium. He must help to bear the cross if he expected to wear the crown; and that man turned the current. He had great influence, and when he identified himself with the Lord's cause it had a great effect upon a great many business men. There is not a man here to-night who has not his circle. It may be small, still there are men whom he influences. Who claims your influence? Whose side are you on? I have very little sympathy for a man if you have to find a musty church record to know whether he is a Christian or not. I believe no man can really serve both God and mammon. His every day life should be that of a Christian. Sometimes men appear to be on both sides. When our war broke out some men wanted to be on both sides, and they secured two flags. When the Southern army came among them, they ran out the Southern flag. They were Confederate men, and gave three cheers for the Southern army as they went by. After the army had swept past, and the Federal army advanced, they crossed the river and ran up the star-spangled banner. By-and-bye these men were found out, and I tell you they were stripped, neither the Northern nor Southern men had any respect for them whatever. Some men try to run out both flags in this world. When they are with religious people they are religious, and when they are with the world's people they scoff at Christianity. Whose side are you on? Are you for Christ? Are you out and out on the Lord's side? I remember going to Dublin in 1867, when I was introduced to a prominent Christian merchant by a London merchant. The Dublin merchant said, "Is this young man all O and O? is he out and out for Christ?" I never forgot the two O's. I would rather have the two O's to my name than D. D. or LL. D. any time. That is what we want to-night, men out and out for Christ. Let us look at the 8th verse of the 12th chapter of St. Luke: "Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of

Man also confess before the angels of God." This is what Christ says to you to-night. I believe a great many men backslide because they are ashamed to throw out their colors and show them. There are a good many backsliders here to-night. Let your mind go back to when you left the Lord. That was probably when you went into some place where there was one of those free-thinkers, and you had not the courage to speak your convictions. When Christ was here he said to His disciples, "Whom do they say that I am?" "Some say you are Christ, some say Jeremiah," answered His disciples. "Who do you say I am?" asked Christ. Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." Christ blessed him right there and then. When did Peter fall? Just when he was ashamed to own Christ, and he did not own Him. A great many men are kept from proclaiming Christ because they are unwilling to let their friends and parents know. There is no one in the world who would be so glad to hear of your conversion as your own sainted mother. There are men in this house to-night whose mothers have prayed for their conversion for years. I saw during the war, men who had faced the cannon's mouth; they wanted to be Christians, but they were ashamed to let their comrades know it. There is not a man in the world who would not have a thousand times more respect for you if you were a Christian, and stood firm. There are two grand characters spoken of in the Bible. One is that of the blind beggar whose sight was restored, as related in the 9th chapter of St. John. The story reads like this:—Christ met him and asked him if he would like to receive his sight. He said he would. Christ then spit on the ground and made clay of the spittle, and he appointed the eyes of the blind man with clay. Then he told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam, which the blind man did, and he got his sight. He filled the blind man's eyes with mud. Yea, God's ways are not our ways. When his friends did not recognize him as the blind beggar he said: "I am he." It was a good thing for the man to get his lips open to proclaim Christ. He said: "I am he." The people said: "Tell us how you got your sight. He told what Jesus had done. Then they went to the blind man's parents, and asked how he got his sight. I have always had great contempt for these parents. They said they did not know how he got his sight. They were afraid of public sentiment. They were afraid of being cast out of the synagogue. It was a serious thing in those days to be cast out of the synagogue. But if the Methodists cast you out to-day the Baptists will take you in. If the Baptists cast you out the Church of England will take you in. Now in those days they did not want to be cast out, as they would be cast out for good. They had not the moral courage to stand up and say, "Christ did it." The beggar was not afraid. He said he was the man who had been blind and Christ had restored his sight. Would not Christ give that man a warm welcome when he got to heaven? You can imagine Jesus Christ rising from His throne and saying, "Father, this is the man who confessed me in that dark day in Jerusalem, when my name was cast out in the nation." May God help you all to come out and take up your cross. The next man I want to call your attention to is Joseph of Arametha. He was a secret disciple. He had not the moral courage to come out at first, but the death of Christ brought him out grandly. I can never read the account of his begging the lady of Christ without my heart being touched. It must have touched the hearts of the evangelists for every one of them mentions him, and has something good to say of him. On that dark day in Jerusalem, the darkest the world ever saw, when the Son of God hung upon the cross, betrayed by one of His disciples, denied by another, and deserted by the rest; Joseph was not there, but he came afterwards and asked to Christ's body. No doubt had some of us been there we would have advised him, "Now Joseph, be careful. If you had gone and confessed this man before there might have been some reason in it, but now if you confess him, you will do no good. You will lose your place in the Sanhedrim, and your place in society, your best friends will not speak to you, and you will be isolated and