

any recommendations that I may make, I cannot say how far they may apply to circumstances and conditions other than those in which I have been working. Now, missionary work among children is, I think, entitled to very grave attention from Sunday-school workers. We distinguish mission work in this way: that outside of the work for children which is done in the Church itself, it is an effort thrown out beyond or outside of the Church—the Church putting its arm out to reach those who are not in its fold, whether old or young. Our mission Sabbath-school is just reaching out to get the children that are not in the Church, or drawn in by its ordinary organism. I do think we don't realize sufficiently how much the Lord Jesus Christ conveyed in His beautiful object lessons (because He taught all the time in object lessons, and I thank God that in these latter days we are getting back in our Sabbath-school teaching to the way the Lord Jesus Christ used to teach). If He wanted to teach any duty, He brought an object lesson in. If He wanted to teach the people about their having faith in His clothing them, He held up to them the lilies of the field; and if He wanted to teach them about having faith in His feeding them, He spoke of the ravens; and when He wanted to show them about those He wanted them to have near their hearts, He just took a little child and put it in the midst of them. I want you to think that that little child is not like the little child we probably have pictured it—not a little child beautiful in every way—but probably a poor little brown youngster, with a torn, ragged dress, with a circlet of muslin, brown and ragged, and as plain as it could be; He just reached out and took a young child, because as usual the children would be around the Lord Jesus Christ, as many of you workers know the children are around you when you go down where your work is, and get hold of you in many kinds of ways—the young children were around the Lord Jesus Christ like that. He had not to reach far to take up the little rough child just to tell them about that child. Now I think of that little child as being all the time put down in our midst. The Lord Jesus Christ uses very strong words when He speaks about the little ones. He says: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones." What does He mean? Why, despising is neglecting or not paying attention to them. If (as He is doing continually) He puts that little ragged and coarse child, with all kinds of coarse instincts and tastes, in the midst of you, He means that you shall not despise that child, or overlook it, but that it shall have just that attention which He meant when He put it in the midst of those people. I want you to think first that the child is a wonderful teacher. I remember reading about a man who was a rough fellow, and who said that he was a man who never thought much about God until he had a little child. His little child was born, and then he said he began to think that there was a little being with an immortal soul that was dependent upon him, in a great measure, as to what its future should be, and he knelt down and prayed for the first time, and kept praying