

force of habit, or custom, or to gratify a miserable ambition, or from profession, will be wanting then, and when so much will have been taken away from our work, how much will remain when it comes back to us after having been approved of by the Lord? God will accept the gold amid the dross, but only the gold. What *a change of places* this judging by motives will bring! Last first and first last; men from obscurity rising, and men from high places going out of sight. And what *consolation* it will bring to true motive. When we try to serve Him from a pure motive and fail, the work alone fails, not the motive; when we try to serve Him amidst circumscribed means, the thing may look small to men, but great to Him who looks at all the *doer tried to do*. The rich may give largely; but the poor, who do all they can, shall pass for munificent givers. Men who would die for Christ, if there was no alternative but to *die or deny*, having the martyr's spirit, shall receive the martyr's crown. What is in our heart that we would do if capacity or circumstances allowed, *shall be accepted as if done*. However fruitless the wish, and though it may seem to end in disappointment, Jesus whispers, "It was well, for it was *in thine heart*." He who is quick to detect fault is also quick to discover excellence.

*2nd. Good and faithful service has respect to the EXTENT of service.* All true service must begin in entire self-dedication to God. Without this self-surrender, a man is nothing before God; he is not even entered upon His service, and where this true coesecration takes place we must serve Him to the extent of possibility and requirement. At whatever cost of labor or suffering or sacrifice, not conferring with flesh and blood, but mortifying the flesh, and if need be the affections also, going forward amid evil report and good in the practice of the required self-denial; faithful to the *extent and the end*. I am afraid the standard of Christian service is too often lowered and explained according to the opinion and actions of the Christian community around us, instead of by the mind of Christ. You have the clearest confirmation of this in the laudatory judgments so often passed on Christian service within our observation. Let a man maintain a good reputation, conform to the observances of his Church, and give the influence of his name and position, and wealth to