

and finally heed not. How many lives which in the cloister would have blossomed into fairest flower and richer fruit and been productive of untold good, have in the world faded, shrivelled up and died with nothing done for souls or Him who bled His life away for men. How many who, if they had generously asked like Paul: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do" and had been strong of arm and stout of heart to do His will, would have lived near the altar and within the shadow of the sanctuary! Their lives, like Paul's, would have rung true to every noble motive and have influenced for good ten thousand souls. Such lives outside of their calling, away from the Tabernacle, have been cold and dark, scanty in merit for themselves and all but useless for others.

One day during our Lord's public ministry, a certain young man kneeling before Him asked Him: "Good Master, what shall I do that I may receive eternal life?" When the young man had answered our Lord's heart-searching questions on the commandments with the sublimely simple words: "All these things I have observed from my youth," Jesus looking on him, loved him and gave him the call to the higher life. "Come and follow me," were the words that conveyed the invitation. Who that had seen the look in the Master's eyes, had heard the sweet persuasiveness of His voice, had witnessed the pleading of His hands could have refused? Yet, St. Mark tells us that the young man who had kept the commandments from his youth did refuse, for he says: "Who being struck sad at this saying went away sorrowful." But who can tell the sorrow that weighed down the Sacred Heart? It is sad to think how often similar scenes are enacted in Catholic homes, how those whom Jesus calls will not heed. The command comes to flee with the Babe of Bethlehem. They loiter and tarry. The days of their sad lives slip away. The Child has been taken into the Egypt of other souls by braver and stouter hearts. There He will render lives fruitful of holiness as did His sojourn along the Nile centuries ago.

Out from the same Tabernacle comes the same voice of our Blessed Saviour pleading with parents; the Sacred Heart asking for his own, which He has entrusted