

cost Him to work out that wonderful redemption which was theirs. It cost Him the "pouring out of His soul unto death." "His strength was dried up like a potsherd, etc." He wants to tell them also *what they have* at this wondrous cost. First, *peace* is theirs—two fold peace, peace in relation to their *place* before God : peace as to their *path* amongst men. Look at it. "Peace be unto you," saith the Saviour. Then they could say what they never could before, "*Abba, Father,*"—and all this was the fruits of redemption! "What God has *joined* together let us not put asunder." He has wedded Jesus' *place* of wondrous grace and blessing, and Jesus' *path* with its tears of sorrow and self-denial,—the will given up to God wholly and entirely—and let us not sever them. How much have we learned it so? Dear brethren, I appeal to you, how much has the Lord taught us *thus*? Let us hear Him again. "Peace be unto you," "As my Father hath sent me, even so *send* I you." John xx. 21. This points to the narrow path in which He had walked. The language of Jesus' heart was this, "Lo, I come to do *Thy will*, O God." Heb. x. 9. So we have put together for us, Jesus' *place* in the presence of the Father, and His *path* in the world that cast Him out. See a picture of this in the case of Joseph and his brethren. His father calls him, and he says, "Here am I, my father." His father says, I want to send you to enquire after the welfare of your brethren; thus, the one distinguished by the "coat of many colors"—badge and token of his father's *love*—became the doer of his father's *will*,—carried with him the very thing that would call out the enmity of his brethren; so are we sent out with the marks of a Father's love bestowed upon us—"accepted in the Beloved"—our coat of many colors; and the more we wear this coat—walk in the enjoyment of "our calling of God on high"—the more shall we find that the world hates the Son of God. The second thing, then, is, that the Lord Jesus Christ having thus sought to establish the hearts of His people as to their *place*, breathes on them and says, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost;" as one risen from the dead, as the Head of the new creation, He empowers them to take every step that He sets before them in the *path* He calls them to walk in. Thomas is missing—the one distinguished above the other Apostles for his unbelieving spirit. He must thrust his hand into the Lord's side before he will believe. But stouter citadels than Thomas' heart have been won for Christ. Does the Saviour say that He will pass him by, and leave him to his misery? No.