

He took not on Himself the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham, and became like His brethren in all things.

Secret of His Power.

Let me draw your attention to one thought here: The secret of Christ's power was His purity of life. His high regard for God's law, and these principles were stamped upon Him by the early teaching of His mother in the little school in Nazareth.

It has been said that you should not keep a child under the shackles; that you should not circumscribe him; that you should not seek to control for his interests; but let him taste the bitter that he might in time to come appreciate the sweet; that you cannot put old heads on young shoulders; that we all have a right to sow our wild oats. Do you not know that the Bible says: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap?" Oh! what are you sowing, you boys, you girls? Are you sowing wild oats? Don't you know you will reap a harvest of woe, of disease, a harvest of tears and wretchedness and weakness if you sow wild oats in youth? To-day the world is crippled because of the sins of the past. Learn this lesson; that, if you would be pure as a man, if you would be powerful as a man, wise as a man, learn to be pure, study to be powerful, seek to acquire wisdom while yet a child.

Parable of the Wise Man.

I offer a conjecture here that one day while working in that carpenter shop on the side of the hill over against His little village home, there arose a great storm and that He could see out of the door as the storm clouds were rising and the winds were howling, and by and by the torrents of rain came down, and with a mighty rush, freighted with wrecked matter, it hurled down the valley until it struck a house on the other side that was nice, grand, beautiful to gaze upon; but when the debris that had been gathered by the fierce torrents of the storm beat upon that house, it fell and ruin was the consequence. But on the other side He gazes upon a little home, perhaps not grand in its architectural design, but yet it was solid, built in the proper way, and when the storm beat upon it, it fell not, but it stood like the sturdy oak amid the tempest; and in years afterwards He was able to draw a picture from life when He said: "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell." I believe He told the story as it was imprinted upon the tablets of the past.

Jesus as a Man.

We hasten on to Jesus as a man, a real character, a real figure who acted His part in the great drama of life upon the stage of humanity; one we see environed by all the trials and temptations, and tears and darkness, and the sickness and gloom that has come to the sons of men; not a figure that came from heaven to represent divinity without having trial, but as a man with all the human propensities. Isaiah, in talking of this character, tells us that He "was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." "He was bruised for our iniquities," and for the transgression of His people was He stricken, and with His stripes we are healed. He understood the pangs of hunger; He endured the tortures of poverty; He knew something about the burning fever of disease; He was cognizant of the weaknesses of life as