

knew "what was in man." There is a sense in which this knowledge of our Lord was supernatural, but there is also a sense in which it was perfectly natural. "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature." We know that he lived much among men during the days of His public ministry, and He probably lived not less among them during His working days at Nazareth. Every great, certainly every effective preacher to-day, knows men. There is a kind of speculative preaching, that appeals chiefly to the cultivated, for which an extensive knowledge of men is not essential, but the men who adopt this style of preaching are better fitted for the rostrum of a college classroom than for the pulpit of an average church. For the man who would impress an audience of ordinary intelligence, and save souls—which is quite another thing from enlightening minds—knowledge of human nature is indispensable. There is no short cut to this knowledge. It takes time and patience to enable any man to acquire it; but its attainment in the end will be more than compensation to the minister of the Gospel for any number of mistakes he may make, or any self-sacrifice or self-repression he may have to practice, in the effort to acquire it. The minister's first prayer should be, "Lord, show me Thyself," his next, "Lord, show me myself," and then contact with men will generally do the rest.

There is one other source of pulpit power that remains to be mentioned, the study. Next to the Spirit of God, the study is the minister's best friend and helper. It is hardly possible to mention a great preacher who was not at the same time a hard student. The Holy Spirit was never intended to be an aid to idleness, nor a substitute for work, but to impart to that work the energizing and life-giving power it needs. In the quiet of the study and in thought the preacher gets his most effective "settings"—the matter of his teaching comes from the Spirit, the manner from the study. The Bible itself is the book that yields the largest returns to the student. Aids to its study are not to be despised, but aids should never be allowed to take the place of the Word itself. The freshest and the most stimu-