

plified in His after life—"I must be about My Father's business!" Weared with His journey, as He sat by the well in Samaria, He hardens Himself against the demands of nature, and engages with life and energy in the conversion of a poor sinful woman. And when, meanwhile, His disciples bring Him food, He appears insensible to His want; and His thoughts being abstracted from all things of the earth, save its sins and its souls, He astonishes them by His answer—"I have meat to eat that ye know not of—*my* meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."

Thank God, this glorious Example has not been without its fruit. Miserable as have been the short-comings of the universal Church, yet what a wonderful *total* do her annals present of disinterested love, of beneficent activity, of dauntless duty, of unconquerable zeal! And this is chiefly owing to the example of Christ, for it was while "looking unto Jesus," that all those gentle deeds of unobtrusive goodness, which are registered only in the Book of God's Remembrance, and all those heroic acts which shed lustre on religion, were performed. Without the *example* of Jesus, it is to be feared that His precepts would be enervated of almost all their force.

iii. His miracles, too, were not merely works of present mercy, but the future defences and demonstrations of His religion; and, therefore, He was diligent in working them—that He might manifest His own glory, and cause men to believe in Him; "that (as He said on one occasion) the works of God should be made manifest;" and therefore, He says, "I do cures to-day, and to-morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."

iv. The training of His apostles for the work of man's salvation, was another main part of Christ's ministry. I need not dwell on the manner in which He executed it; with what assiduous care He inculcated and reiterated the simplest lessons; with what patience He bore their dulness of spiritual apprehension; how gently He reproved their forgetfulness and want of faith; how benignly He apologized for their failure in duty to Him; how compassionately He forgave their backsliding, and received them again to His love.

And now, my brethren, before drawing to a *conclusion*, let me ask you to consider the inexpressible *importance* of that work