

their dead." People have gone stumbling over that passage, they don't know what the Saviour meant. He meant this, that it is more important to seek the kingdom of God than to bury a dead father. Why? Because you may die yourself while you are in the very act. This is the very first thing, and if we don't do it, and death comes before we have sought the kingdom of God, whose fault is it? Is there a man here who can give any good reason for not obeying this command to seek first the kingdom of God? Now, what are ye seeking after? Every one in this house is seeking after something. John Bunyan described it very well in his picture of the man with the old muck-rake. There he was gathering a few straws, and an angel over his head with his crown. Yet he wanted badly to gather those straws. What would you say if you saw a wealthy man offer a beggar a bag of gold, and the beggar was to run away, as if he was running for dear life, to get away from it? Why, you would say the man has gone clear mad. Well, sinner, that is what you are doing. God has come right down, clear down to the door of your heart, and He asks you to be saved. He came to bless, not to curse you; to lift you up, not to cast you down; to do you good, not evil; to set up His kingdom in your heart, to give you power over the world, the flesh and the devil. He wants to bless every man in Boston. He is not your enemy. The devil has blinded and deceived you, but may the Spirit of the Lord open your eyes to-night and may you just now hear the voice of the Good Shepherd calling you to Himself. I went up last October to bury a lovely brother, and the day we buried him was a beautiful day. The Lord had blessed him the year before, and he had a Bible like the one I have in my hand, and I took it and opened it, and I found right on the fly-leaf his name, and under it one passage. It was this: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might, for there is no knowledge or device in the grave whither thou goest." Little did he know when he penned it how soon he was to be laid down into the grave. You cannot afford, I say, to put off this question any longer. I would like to lay this text across the path of every man and woman here to-night, so that if you put aside the kingdom of God you must trample that blessed word right under your feet. I remember, in the town I spoke of, twenty years before I came to Boston, when I was a wild, reckless young man, I noticed a man at work with me in the field weeping, and I asked him why, and he told me a strange story. It seemed strange to me then, for I was not a Christian. He said when he was a young man he started out of that town to make his fortune, and he had to go afoot, and his mother gave him this text: "Seek first the