

have heard people say : " I have heard such and such a person tell their experience, and how, if they were ever converted in their lives, they wanted to be converted just as that woman was, or just as that man was." Don't you know God never repeats himself ? There are no two people living in this world who are just exactly alike. There are no two just the same size, height, colour, and in every particular the counterparts of each other. And so there is no two come to Christ just alike. Did you ever hear of anyone converted as St. Paul was ? And if you wait to be converted as some one else is, I am afraid you will never be converted. That's the trouble with many. They are marking out their own way to come to God. Come in *His* way and be saved. Now, if there is a man or woman here tonight that wants to get rid of the leprosy of sin, you have not got to go as far as Naaman. He had to go 150 miles. You need not go out of this building. You need not go home. All you have got to do is to obey the Word of the Lord. All the Lord wanted of Naaman was to have him obey. He need not have sent him to the Jordan at all. He might have told Elisha to say the word, Be clean ! and he would have been clean. He wanted to teach him obedience. And if you are ever saved you will have to learn this lesson. To obey is better than sacrifice. What God wants is obedience. Elisha says, " Go wash," and Naaman is angry ; but a servant says : " My Lord, if he had asked you to do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it ?" If Elisha had said to him : " Naaman, go back to Syria on your hands and knees !" he would have done it. He would have been glad to. So it is. If man can only come to God in his own way, he would be glad to come. It is the giving up of his own way—that's the trouble. If Elisha had told him to go down into a cave and weep and mourn for seven years, he would have gone and done it. He would never have complained of that. If he had told him to banish himself from his family and stay away from his family twenty years to get rid of his leprosy, he would not have complained. But it was because it was such a little thing ; because it was such a simple thing. He just stumbled over it, and said it was not according to reason. Now supposing he had told him some great thing : " Had you not better go down and dip ?" And at last they persuaded him. He got over his impatience. He might have said to himself, " I do not want to go back and let them know that I went down into the Jordan and made a fool of myself. That I came 150 miles to be told to go down into the Jordan and dip ! If the great men hear of this, how they will laugh at me for going and dipping in the Jordan seven times, when we have better rivers in our own country." I can imagine him at the bank of the river. And down he went the first time ; and when he came up he looked at the leprosy, and he says to himself, " Well, there ! I am just as much of a leper as ever I was. There's not one bit of it gone." If it had been some of our people now, they would have said, " Now do you feel better ?" Or, " Now, Naaman, do you feel better ?" Down he went the second time ; and he came up and looked at himself, and found he was just as much of a leper as he ever was when he went in. And he comes up complaining, and says to the servant, " I told you it would do no good." Down he goes a third time, and he comes up a leper still. Down he goes a fourth time, and when he came up he was just as much a leper, and he says, " I will give it up. There is no use in it. I have not got rid of any part of it." But the servant says, " You better go down three times more." And down he goes a fifth time ; and he comes up, and he is the same. Down he goes the sixth time ; and he comes up just as much a leper as before. He says : " I will go down once more." Down he goes the seventh time ; and when he comes up he hardly knows himself. He looks in amazement on himself. His leprosy is all gone. He is going back to see the prophet. And as he rides up to the house the prophet comes out to see him. What a greeting it was ! He was full of gratitude, full of love. And he says : " I know there is no God like the God of the prophet of Israel." And he wanted him to take something, and he would not, for that would not be grace. Then he wanted to pay something to his servant ; but he would not take anything. That would have spoiled it all if the prophet Elisha had