

In the parable of the lost piece of money He says: Either, what woman having ten pieces of silver if she lose one piece doth not light a candle and sweep the house diligently till she find it.

Our Lord during His three years of ministry preached to vast multitudes, fed thousands, but was not content with preaching simply. He sought out the individual who had need of His mercy and blessing.

Indeed, like His great forerunner, John the Baptist, He might have preached in the wilderness, or remained on the mountain where He delivered His great inaugural sermon, and have had thousands and tens of thousands to listen to Him, or He might have preached in temple and synagogue, and they would have been filled to the overflowing with those who would have hung, so to speak, on the words which fell from His divine lips, but this He was not pleased to do.

He came down from the mountain to heal the poor leper. He sought out the fallen Mary Magdalene to dispossess her of the seven devils that had possession of her.

He often retired to the quiet home in Bethany to bring a blessing and a benediction to that home, overlooking the fanaticism of Jewish hatred and the fastidiousness of Jewish Pharisaism, He chose the route which led through Samaria that He might reveal Himself and speak the words of Life to the woman at the well. He goes away into Heathendom itself that He might bestow a blessing on the Syro-Phœnician woman. I repeat, by precept and by example and by practice did our Lord emphasize the great importance of personal work.

How our worldly wise men recognize the great importance of this kind of work in worldly things, for instance, the Politician is not satisfied with going through his constituency addressing the electors in masses as they assemble in the different centres, but in addition to the public meetings he adds the personal canvass.

I venture the statement that a clergyman may have his two or three services regularly on Sunday, and his week-day service equally regular every week, and preach with all the eloquence of a Demosthenes, the Logic of an Apollos, and the sublime earnestness of St. Paul. And if he were to stop there and neglect the personal work of his ministry he would fall far short of doing his duty as a faithful pastor, for whilst he might influence for good the greater part of the flock committed to his charge, and perhaps many outside of the limits of his parish, there would always remain less or more in his own fold uninfluenced and uncared for, simply because they keep themselves aloof, or are pre-