

## The Upward Look

### Doing One's Duty

And it came to pass, when the time came that He should be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.—St. Luke 9:51.

Of the many delightful glimpses the Lord has given of the human life of Jesus, disclosing as they do His kindness and sympathy, His quickness to aid those who appealed to Him for aid, His scorn of hypocrisy, His hatred of sin, His love of all mankind, they reveal His courage and steadfastness of purpose more clearly and deeply than the verse of our text.

In Jerusalem there awaited Him one of the rueful of all deaths—death by the cross. Well He knew it. He had frequently told His disciples about it. He had even rebuked Him who had tempted Him not to allow such things to happen to Him. (St. Matthew 16:21, 23.) Yet He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. This time came, therefore, neither the remembrance of His friends nor the fear of death itself were sufficient to lead Him to turn aside one moment from His purpose.

It was not easy for Him to do this. His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane proves this. Having taken upon Himself our human form, with all its possibilities for physical suffering, He had our natural dread of the ordeal that awaited Him. It was this which led Him to plead with His Father in Heaven, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (St. Matthew 26:39.) And when He finally knew that it was God's will that He should be spared, He did not flinch but continued steadfast to the end.

How great is the example He thus sets us! When temptations assail us, we always remain true? When difficulties confront us, do we set our face steadfastly to meet them, or do we try to find some other way, the way of weak compromise, to avoid them irrespective of what our inner guiding voice tells us that we should do? Sometimes Christ wants us to take a decided stand for the right, it may be in our own family circle or among our friends, or before the public. Do we disappoint Him, or are we true to the example that He has set us? When in such moments we feel tempted to set our faces away from the path of duty, let us do as He did, and pray to Him, and to God, for the strength and wisdom that we need. Such prayers when uttered with faith on the heart are always answered. May God keep us all steadfast in our purpose to do His will.—I.H.N.

### A Talk to Farmers' Wives

As I sit and watch the first snowflakes of the season dancing around the buildings and sizzling along the pavement, my mind travels back to the many times when from the window of a little farmhouse on the prairie I watched the first snowflakes and thought of the long winter before me, just as many of you are doing to-day.

As I look back to life on the farm I feel like one who, from a distance, watches a game, and feels that he can tell the players what to do; so, because I am outside of the game, I can perhaps warn you, who are in the midst of the struggle, of a few dangers that are threatening.

#### SHOULD BE, BUT—

First, I should be to tell you how happy you should be in your life of quietness and plenty, but I suppose you will not believe me any more than we believed our parents when

they told us our school days were the happiest in life. But note that I said your lives should be very happy, not that they are, because in too many cases the greed for gain is making slaves of our farmers and their families.

We teach our children that the days of idols are passed; that we no longer offer sacrifices, but they will soon learn from life that we still worship idols, and our offering now is always a human sacrifice. Students every year are offering themselves on the altar of ambition; business men are following the glamour of gold, regardless of all the other and higher joys of life; professional men are lured on by the most subtle of all temptations— fame—to give themselves body and soul; while too often the farmer offers himself and his family to satisfy an insatiable desire for cattle and horses and land.

#### THE WIFE'S HELP.

Just here, it seems to me, comes in the tragedy and the wrong. It is always possible to get men to garner the harvest, but there is no one to help the farmer's wife, cook and care for the extra harvest hands, and prepare for Christmas. Then, too, at this time of year, picking and preserving must be done, and the fall sewing is always demanding time. How one pair of hands can do so much I cannot say; in fact, it has always been a mystery to me, but do it they often do, and very well at that. Of course, they have to work long after the rest of the family are sound asleep, and life there to begin again before the others are up, but they get it done.

You wonder why the husband and father will allow the mother of his children and the woman he has solemnly promised to love and protect to commit suicide, and never raise a hand in protest. It is chiefly because he does not think. When they first started out in life together, they were very anxious to succeed, and both did all they could. Then a child came to the home. The mother was not strong, but she persisted in doing without help, regardless of the fact that she was ruining her physical frame.

The husband at first protested, but men are very human, and he soon became accustomed to her doing all the work, and expected it of her.

She made superhuman efforts, and congratulated herself that she was saving a girl's wages, never thinking that she was violating one of Nature's most stringent laws, and that she would in time pay the penalty; never thinking that she was wronging her husband, her child and her children yet unborn; never thinking that in time to come her children might blame her needless and wicked abuse of herself for their lives of torture and blighted hopes. You are paying too dearly for your farms, my friends. Your worldly possessions will but mock you when you come to face the great and inevitable fate of mankind—death.

#### A LITTLE ASSISTANCE.

I am not prepared to offer a solution of the most girl problem, but it has frequently occurred to me that if farmers advertised as diligently for help for their wives as they do for help for themselves, that the demand would not greatly exceed the supply. I would like to suggest, however, that you lighten your burden by engaging a girl to do your sewing. If you never had one, you will be surprised at the great relief you will feel to have one. I have done. In all the districts in which I have lived sewing girls can be engaged at from 75 cents to \$1.00 a day, and it is surprising how much they can do in a couple of weeks if they are reasonably smart.

It will be money well spent, for it is eternally true that "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rocks the world," and we do not want a nation nurtured by white slaves, weak in body and mind, but by women, strong in body and intellect, and able to bequeath to their children that which is above the price of cattle and horses and land.—Belle MacDonald in Hearth and Home.

### What To Do With Ants

Where sweets are kept—for instance in the pantry—ants are liable to become troublesome. One of our readers is evidently already in trouble, as she writes for a remedy for this pest. A remedy that has been tried with splendid results is to place cotton saturated with turpentine around any openings into which the ants are likely to force their way. Another suggestion is to dip a sponge in sugar water, press it out a little, then place the sponge in the ant runs. When it is full of ants, drop the sponge into hot water and repeat. After a few days the ants seem to be seized with terror and they abandon the house.

To eradicate ants that make hills in lawns or lawns, a good suggestion is to mix sugar and Paris green together, dissolve in water, and sprinkle over the hill.

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### About Buttonholes

Even such simple things as buttons and buttonholes require proper treatment to insure neatness. When buttoning or unbuttoning a garment, forcing the buttons across the width of the hole will soon tear out the latter. For this reason, buttons with only two holes are better than those with four, and should be so placed that their holes will be on a line with the length of the buttonhole. Some women place buttons with four holes so that only two holes need be sewed through—those on the opposite corners—thus making them last longer than if all four were used.

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