

truth—a thing not often done when speaking of one's self. When you said you must let some one take your class who would do better with them you did not say exactly what you meant. You came nearer to it when you said you were tired of teaching."

"I am not exactly tired of teaching, but I am discouraged. I love teaching, but my teaching does not do any good. Much that I say is not understood, and I can't see that I am doing any good."

"We cannot see all the good we do—all the impressions made through our instrumentality. A teacher had a rude boy in his class. He was apparently very inattentive and mischievous. He had great natural quickness of mind. While not seeming to pay attention, he was on the watch for opportunities to ask questions and give answers adapted to provoke a smile. The teacher was greatly annoyed by him, and especially by his inattention to her farewell remarks as she was about to leave them for a voyage to Europe. During the utterance of her parting words he seemed wholly occupied in examining a slight opening in the mortice of the seat and in thrusting splinters into it. She afterward learned that serious impressions were made upon his mind every time he was in the class, and that the impression made the last time she met the class led to his conversion. Such facts show that we must not judge according to appearances. You have a somewhat difficult class to teach?"

"They are rude and uncultured—I have done my best to interest them."

"You take great pains with them, but without the results you desire, and that is a source of discouragement."

"Yes; I don't mind the labor at all. It would be nothing but pleasure if my instructions were appreciated and produced fruit."

"We all wish to be appreciated. It is very proper that we should do so. There is often a failure on the part of our pupils to appreciate our instructions and our motives. This is not a new thing under the sun. Call to mind the history of the great Teacher. There may be some points of analogy between your experience and his. You sometimes fail to make your

pupils understand your teaching. You think you have made a truth so plain that no one can fail to comprehend it. You pass on, but ere long an answer is given to some question which reveals the fact that your instructions have not been understood. It is a very discouraging discovery.

"Christ had a similar experience. 'He spake as never man spake,' yet his disciples, his constant pupils, failed to understand him. When using figurative language he warned them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod. They regarded it as a reproof for their not having taken bread. Not only was he misunderstood, but the whole tenor of his instructions was misunderstood. His instructions were spiritual, and they put an earthly construction on them all. Nicodemus asked him how a man could be born when he was old; and after his resurrection his disciples asked him if he would at that time restore the kingdom to Israel. If your instructions are misunderstood, the same thing happened to your Master. He did not cease from teaching; neither should you.

"Your motives and instructions have not been appreciated by your class, perhaps not by your superintendent. Superintendents are not infallible. Some cannot see beyond the forms of things, and manage the school as though it were a machine.

"Christ had a similar experience. Sometimes the common people heard him gladly. Sometimes he had a pupil like Mary, who sat at his feet and listened reverently to his words. But sometimes he was laughed to scorn, and at another time it was exclaimed, 'He hath a devil, why hear ye him?' Your instructions have never been treated with such disrespect as were the instructions of Christ.

"You have not been very successful in your teaching. Christ had a similar experience. His teaching was not attended with any great degree of visible success. It is true that a great portion of his work as a teacher was preparatory to that which was to follow. And so a great portion of your work may be designed to be preparatory. You are teaching truths which are able to make your pupils wise unto salvation, and it may be God's design to