

in the side of the vessel, with what joy we drink this new wine of the kingdom; or as it is in Isaiah xii., draw water out of these wells of salvation?

Now, it is to the heart that seeks Jesus that God ministers Jesus; for it is not of him that willeth or of him that runneth, any more than is salvation; though in another aspect it is only the diligent soul that is made fat. Read Proverbs ii., and also viii., for this; also 2 Peter i., where we are told to add to faith, virtue and all these other graces. But why? Not merely for the having THEM to God's praise and our blessing, but that we may be neither idle nor unfruitful in the KNOWLEDGE of JESUS. Ah! that is everything, as Paul says—"That I may know Him"—and again, "the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Other knowledge even about the word puffs up, but this keeps the soul like a babe on the breast of its mother, and works into us the very grace and gentleness and love of Jesus Himself. Witness Mary, who sat at His feet. And the grace of Christ is an active thing. It is not the idle contemplation of a beautiful picture; it is the power of living for the comfort and good of OTHERS.

This is important, for many delight in the word—honestly indeed—and yet, not connecting it with Jesus, it is like manna which stinks. Why do they delight in the word? Because it gives THEM comfort. You see the heart is not on Christ, but self. No wonder, then, that it is but as a very lovely song, which leaves only a remem-