

addition to the half-shekel, compulsory every year on every adult male, for the worship of Jehovah. Six of the chests were to receive free, unspecified gifts, the other seven were marked for distinct purposes, such as certain sacrifices, incense, wood, and other supplies. When Herod Agrippa I. came back to Jerusalem to take possession of his kingdom, he offered all the fitting sacrifices and he hung up in the treasury the gold chain which he received from Caligula, and which was said

to have been as heavy as the iron chain with which he was bound in his Roman prison.

MITEs—Were the smallest coins recognized by the Jewish state and two of them was the smallest sum that it was lawful to contribute to the treasury of the Lord. The two were worth about one-half a cent, but their purchasing power would be equal to two cents now. And in the treasury at this time there was about three millions of dollars and vessels valued at ten millions. X

THE LESSON APPLIED

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It is said that the venerable Dr. Harry Rainy of Glasgow, father of the famous Principal Rainy, once had a dream in which the Holy Spirit seemed to be speaking to him of how to become holy. God had used mercy and also discipline, and yet it had all been insufficient. "The only thing," the heavenly Speaker seemed to say, "is that you should be brought to realize more clearly how much God loves you." And from that day he had a peace and joy he never knew before. One of the most illuminating and comforting revelations of Jesus was that God is a God to be loved. Hitherto men had feared God and worshipped Him from afar. But when Jesus began to make clear to men that God is a Father who delights to be trusted, a new note of joyousness and intimacy entered into their fellowship with Him, and changed their attitude to others. It is the love of God for us that awakens our love for Him. "You cannot know God and not love Him." And the deeper our love for God grows, the more gracious and kindly will be its fruits in the service of our neighbor.

The love of which Jesus speaks is more than a mere feeling of goodwill. Our emotions are not often under our control. Our feelings change. If our love is a matter of mere sentiment, it is a fickle thing playing on the surface of our lives. Jesus speaks very little of feeling, and very much of action. He is ever suggesting tests. "If ye love Me," He says, "ye will keep My commandments." "He that heareth My words and doeth them, he it is that loveth Me." Love, then, is a matter of conviction, a settled principle of action. Awakened in our soul by the assur-

ance of God's love towards us, it must pass into the accepted and dominating purpose of our life, approved by our intelligence and sealed by our will. It is the whole man—heart, mind and soul—who is summoned to organize his life and direct all its activities in obedience to this great principle. It is so easy to deceive ourselves into thinking that if we feel kindly disposed to God, we love Him. Real love is a master-passion that dominates the whole life, moulds all its services and determines the quality of its every action.

Out of our love for God springs our love for our neighbor. By our attitude to our neighbor, indeed, we may test the quality of our love to God, as the engineer judges the amount of water in the boiler by the rise and fall of the water in the glass gauge. We are not commanded to like all men. We cannot, for often their interests, habits, ideals, are utterly foreign to us. But, as a famous writer has said, "Noblest love can forget no one, for it is built on the needs of man, not on his qualities." Let us rather say that it is built, not on what the man is, but on what, by the grace of God, he may become. What he is, may be repulsive, but what he may become, by the saving power of Christ, is beautiful. In every man lies this possibility of being changed into the ideal manhood, because there is latent in every man the perfect life, the image of God, that, however defaced, is never effaced, and that may be restored in all its pristine glory. We can love our neighbor, love him for what he may become.