

for He saw that there would be a misapprehension unless He showed them that not all seed relating to the kingdom was good seed ; there was evil seed ; there is an antagonizing spirit, Satan, and while the good man is sowing the good seed the evil spirit is sowing evil seed.

These parables are commonly in pairs. What does the mustard seed signify? You drop it in the ground, and it grows to be a great tree. That illustrates the outward growth of religion in a man's life ; the outward appearance of it in a nation's life, but outward appearance only. If our Lord had not given a complement to that, one would have been tempted to judge the spiritual state by the outward appearance ; but our Lord puts the parable of the leaven that has growing force ; but it moves invisibly and in secret. Anybody can see the mustard seed grow until it becomes a great tree, but nobody can see the mysterious workings of the leaven. The housewife sees it, but does not understand it. This represents the inward growth of the kingdom. And so you have these in pairs.

The lost sheep and the lost coin was the parable of last Sunday's lesson ; the prodigal son will be next Sunday's lesson. Instead of being a pair, this is a perfect trinity of parables. You cannot tear them apart. The lost sheep was recovered by the shepherd, our Lord ; the lost coin was recovered by the lighted lamp. The Church, holding the lighted lamp, the Holy Spirit, in her hand, searching for the coin which had been lost. The prodigal son represents the father's love. Here was one who had purposed to be lost. He didn't care. He went into the far country. He left his father's home, and he is recovered. So our Lord sets before you in those three parables different excuses, or reasons, for which this or that person may be lost. But all the parables, summing up the love of the Trinity, are like this : This poor sheep, because of its native bent towards evil, has gone from its proper fold. I will send the good shepherd and find him at any cost. This poor coin that had no feeling or responsibility, is lost by the neglect of the Church and Sunday School teacher ; I will send the Holy Ghost and throw light upon it, conviction and urgency. This poor son is lost because he willed to leave my house. I can't stop him until he comes to himself ; only when he comes to himself, helping him by the power of the Holy Spirit, reminding him of the things of his father's home that he has left behind. When he comes to himself I can save him. The minute he turns his face towards me I will use the love of the Father, of the infinite God, and keep my door open and run and meet him, and fall upon his neck and kiss him. Love of the Father, the Holy Ghost, and the Good Shepherd, Jesus. God using all agencies to save the race.

Nothing delights me so much as Bible study. John Wesley, when he got through college, and he had been a great student—he became one of the Fellows of Lincoln College, Oxford ; magnificent in logic ; a speaker and writer of seven languages ; master of mathematics in the class. Standing upon the stone step of his college one day,

highest
unius li
years an

At th
charts.

In th
read the
by Mr.

It is
tical de
work ad
would s
the case

A nu
themsel
lieve th
good cla
examina
at the t
of twen
tried th
Bracebr
enhurst
Toronto
of the o

Writ
as they
we hope

About
Provinc
examin
Second
Certific
but only

The

Mau
strong