

and example be trained up for a happy immortality. To secure a solid basis for such a structure, and to secure the means of full instruction and perfect example to all Christians, to the end of time, the Saviour directed the labours of His life. He came not only to be a Sacrifice for sin, but also as a *Teacher* of all moral and spiritual truth, and an *Example of godly life*. And therefore we see an additional reason for the fulness of His divine instructions.

i. He was desirous of leaving a treasure of wisdom and knowledge to the world in His blessed sayings, and parables, and discourse; and therefore He laboured ceaselessly, particularly as His end drew nigh. For the last week of His life, we find Him at day-break in the temple teaching the crowds who hung upon His words; or arguing with the obstinate Pharisees; and not till evening going out to Bethany for rest and food. And even the latter He seems sometimes to have neglected in His absorbing earnestness. For on one of those days, going *very early in the morning* from Bethany to Jerusalem, as He approached the fig-tree on which the miracle of blasting was wrought—we read that He hungered. And from thence onwards the Saviour has seen the happy fruits of His travail: from how many millions of hearts have gone up to God the warm utterances of gratitude and praise for those “words of Jesus” which bring light and consolation and enlargement to the sin-burdened soul! Alas, that while *we* so indignantly denounce the unutterable impiety which seals up His gospel from eyes that must be dark without it, so many of ourselves should show our treacherous insincerity by our indifference to the hearing, reading, and meditation of it.

ii. Again: as He was to be the great Exemplar of Christians, so did it behove Him to leave for our transcription a perfect Pattern of devotedness to the work of God. We have already said enough to give some impression of this. We have seen how no labour or danger was shunned in His devotion to His work. Even His disciples,—who were slow of heart to understand what the prophets had said, and who were never ready to see their predictions fulfilled in their Master,—could not help applying to Him one prophecy—“The zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up.” How resolutely does He sweep away every argument for even the shadow of rest, with “I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day!” How wonderfully was the saying of His childhood exem-