

about doing *evil* or *speaking evil*, doing *nothing*, or doing what we know to be *wrong*; selfishly thinking only how to do good to *ourselves*, and forgetting the wants of others?

But perhaps it will be easier for us to think only of *one day*, and to look how our Lord passed his day while on earth; we will look into St. Mark's Gospel chap. i. 35.

"In the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed."

Now here is one thing in which we can follow his example, "he rose up before day." How many of us waste hours long after day in sloath?—or if we rise, rise to our work and business *without* praying; while He who had no sins to pray against, and no wickedness to fear within, yet found it needful and profitable to rise early to pray. [See also Luke v. 16.]

"He went into a *solitary* place." Many people go to Church and appear to pray, who yet never pray in *secret*; yet though *both* public and private prayers, as we shall see, were practised by our Lord, He always warned his disciples against praying *only* to be seen of men, while they neglected to worship their Father who seeth in secret. And now let us take another part of our Lord's day. [See John viii. 2.]

"Early in the morning he came again into the temple and taught." He knew that his time on earth was short, and that He had a great work to do; He therefore *lost no time*; He neglected no opportunity of doing good to the *souls* of men. As it was the custom of the Jews to go to the temple every morning to worship. He knew that He should find many who would need his teaching; and in the outer courts of the temple, when the hour of prayer was over, He stationed himself, to be ready to speak the words of exhortation to the worshippers as they left the House of God.

Now here it will be said we *cannot* follow his example, we are too sinful ourselves to teach others; but we may copy his conduct even in this point. We may, like Him, watch for opportunities of speaking a word in season to our friends and neighbours, in all gentleness and meekness, striving to turn those who are straying from the right path from the error of their way. A kind reproof may, by God's blessing, be the means of saving a soul from death; and at all events we are taught by our Lord's example to *try*.

Again we read in Luke iv. 16, that "*as his custom was*, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day."

Though He so fervently prayed in secret, yet He did not forget that others can only derive benefit from example; and therefore He neglected not the public worship of God in the synagogue, where the Jews always resorted, to show them that He valued also the public and social worship of the sanctuary. He, who declared that He came not to

destroy, but to fulfil the law, was obedient to the law for man. He was circumcised, He was baptized, He paid tribute, and, as we here read, He kept holy the Sabbath day.

These few instances will suffice, though multitudes more might be given, to show how our Lord's daily life may, and ought to be the rule of ours. But, as we are taught in our catechism, we cannot do these things of ourselves, nor walk in the commandments of God, nor serve Him, without his special grace, which we must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let us then earnestly beseech Almighty God, who hath given his only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life, that He would give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A DISSENTING MINISTER AT CHURCH.

A Correspondent states that a Dissenting minister of London, one of the most popular of his class, but who is usually considered to entertain bitter hostility and has certainly uttered very strong anathemas against the Church of England, had occasion, a few months since, to be absent for a short time in the country. On his return, it came out in conversation with a friend, that on the preceding Sunday he had attended the service of the parish Church where he had been staying. This called forth the exclamation, "What! You go to Church, Mr. —." His reply was as follows, "Yes, I seldom lose the opportunity when I can embrace it, *for it always does my soul good*, and I scarcely ever hear those beautiful prayers without being moved to tears." "I am quite aware," adds our Correspondent, "that such sentiments as these, attributed to one regarded by all who knew him as an avowed enemy of the Church, require authentication, and I therefore enclose you my name and address, with the name of the gentleman alluded to."

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