

the Hebrews." Some one goes in and tells it: "I have heard a strange thing from this little Hebrew maid we have brought down from Palestine. She says there is a prophet in Samaria that can heal the leprosy. The girl is confident that he can heal the leprosy." And the king says: "You may go, and I will give you letters to the King of Samaria. You go there and see what the king says." Instead of going to the prophet, where the maid told him to go, he goes to the king. I see him as he rides up to the palace of the King of Samaria; and he sends in his messenger with the king's letter. The king breaks the seal and reads the letter from the King of Syria—the King of Syria to the King of Israel; and when he reads it the first thing he does is to rend his mantle. "Why, this is war. Here this man is trying to pick a quarrel. There will be war. He has asked me to do an unreasonable thing. I am not God that I can kill and make alive. This means a quarrel; this means war." And it soon got through the town that there was a war coming on. And some one tells Elisha that the king had rent his mantle; and the good man sent to the king to know what he had rent his mantle for. And when he says: "Send him to me, and I will speak with him." So the king sends a messenger out to tell Naaman to go to the Prophet Elisha. Now I see him riding up to his house in great grandeur. And when he comes to the prophet's house he sends him word. And no doubt he thought surely the prophet would come out at once when he had such a distinguished guest as a visitor. "He will just dismiss everything else and come and see me." But, instead of that, the prophet sent out word. He may have been busy about something else. He told his servant to go out and tell Naaman to go down to the banks of the River Jordan and bathe seven times, "and thy flesh shall come again to thee and thou shalt be cleansed of thy leprosy." And I see the messenger come; and he tells the general what the prophet said. And I see a frown upon his brow. Now he is full of rage. The idea that he should go down into the Jordan and bathe seven times! He says to himself, "I wonder if he thinks this leprosy has come on me because I have not bathed myself? Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean? The idea that I should dip seven times in Jordan! It does not correspond with my reason." That is what men say now when we plead with them and tell them they would by coming to Christ be saved at once, and they can wash and be clean by just simply laying hold on eternal life and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. They say it is not according to reason, not natural. And Naaman says: "I thought." Now, I never knew a man come to Christ that did not give his thoughts up. I meet men in the enquiry-rooms, and they tell me what they think, and they never come to Christ. They say: "Mr. Moody, I will tell you what I believe." I will say: "Never mind what you believe. It is not what you believe. Take God at His word." Naaman said: "I thought." In the first place he thought: The king had given him a great amount of money. He thought he would bring with him a great doctor's fee. As high as I can make out, he brought nearly half a million of dollars. He brought a great fee, a large amount of money to pay the doctor's bill. And there are a great many who would be willing to be saved if they could buy salvation. They are willing to pay a good price for it, if they can only be accommodated. Oh! how few are willing to give up their thoughts and ways and take God's ways. Now said he: "I thought." I suppose he thought a man in his high position would bring the prophet out at once. He thought he would come out and strike his hand and recover him of his leprosy: "I thought he would call upon his God." "I thought." "I thought." *Sinner, what do you think?* Now, all of you have got your thoughts of the way you are going to be saved. I never knew of any one but what had a way marked out in which they are going to be saved. "I thought!" Yes. "I thought!" There is a passage of Scripture that says: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways." Now, there is one thing every one has got to do before they are saved; and that is to give up their thoughts and give up their ways, and just come to God. Now, I