

## ILLUSTRATION AND APPLICATION

"My Father worketh . . . and I work," v. 17.

It requires no small perversity to bring up these words to fortify Sabbath-breaking. How much work or how little is lawful on the Sabbath, and what recreation may be taken is easily settled by remembering the terms of the Sabbath commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," a day set apart and sanctified to the direct service of God, all common tasks and pleasures to give way before the higher call to worship, and to deeds of mercy, and the heavenly joy which these bring.

"Sought the more to kill him," v. 18. For the double reason that they were bigots and were filled with envy—a bad combination, truly. What a pitiful show poor human nature can make of itself. Here was the Lord of glory come to earth with boundless blessing for men in His hand; and yet, because He could not lie in the narrow bed of their man-made restrictions, and because they saw that He was wiser and better than themselves, these Jews rage furiously against Him even to seeking His life.

"The Son quickeneth," v. 21. This is one of Christ's great prerogatives. He gives life. It was for this purpose that He came to earth. "I am come that they might have life." He comes possessed of this life, He has life in Himself, and is the source of life. He comes also to bestow life, "that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." I one day saw an iceberg at sea. A little stream of water was flowing over the side. Admiral McClintock, who had made voyages to the Arctic, told us that the stream was flowing from a small pond on the top of the iceberg. The snow had melted in the heat of the sun and settled in a little hollow. He said that it was fresh water, and sometimes famished ships' crews got supplies from this source. The iceberg was a crystal cup sent out from a distant shore, carrying in its hollow a little fresh water, and bearing it out on the open sea, whose salt waters can never quench thirst. Here, on the desolate sea of human sin and sorrow, Christ brings to the lips of every one that is athirst a pure crystal cup, and in it there is for him a drink of life-giving water.

I knew two little children, who had come from a Southern climate to live in Canada, very much puzzled when, for the first time, they saw

the falling snow. After talking it over for a time, they both seemed quite satisfied with the conclusion to which they came, that the snow was coming down from out of heaven. This was the fancy of children, but the truth concerning the water of life is that it comes down from heaven and the Son of God is the bearer of it to the children of men.

"Hath committed all judgments unto the Son," v. 22. It is as the Son of man that He judges. "Hath given Him authority to execute judgment also because He is the Son of Man" (v. 27). It is "this same Jesus" that is to sit on the great white throne at the last day. The one, who by His human sympathies and divine attributes is fitted to save men, is by the same qualifications fitted to judge men.

"He that heareth my word," v. 24. One of the great things required of men is hearing. We are to hear His Word. No voice was ever heard on earth like His voice. When He met a funeral procession coming out of the city of Nain, He touched the bier and said to him who was being carried upon it, "Young man, I say unto thee arise," and he who was dead sat up and began to speak. He entered the room where Jairus' little daughter was lying dead. He said, "Maid, I say unto thee arise," and she who was dead sat up and He commanded to give her something to eat. He came to the grave of Lazarus who had been dead four days. He said, "Lazarus come forth," and the sound entered the dull, cold ear of the dead; it waked him, and he came forth living. The sound of that voice reaches the spiritually dead. It is heard by them. It is to them Christ speaks when He says, "He that hath ears to hear let him hear."

"And believeth on him that sent me," v. 28. The testimony of God is that He hath sent His Son. We are required to believe that testimony, to believe in the Father as revealed by Christ. Jesus, in conversation with Nicodemus, compares believing to looking. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Imagine one adrift on the boundless sea. He sights a ship, and tries to attract the attention of those on board. It is his only chance. He intently looks for an answer to his signal, and in that look there