

## THE LAST HANDFUL

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Love was but a Stepping-stone to a Higher Experience and a Greater Blessing. This was not the end of it by any means. A few months passed and, lo, a great sorrow came to that happy home. Her loved boy was stricken with deathly sickness and in a few hours lay cold and lifeless in his mother's arms. Then there came back to her the remembrance of a life of sin and she burst forth with a bitter cry before the man of God, "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" How little we know when we are obeying the Spirit's voice in some solemn hour like this, how soon some tremendous need for God is going to come into our lives and that, in His far-seeing mercy, God is just preparing us now by this very act of faith to trust Him then for something higher and harder. How glad she was an hour later when that loved son was given back to her joyful embrace that she had not said "No" to God when He first had called her. It is not that God deals with us on the principle of bargain and sale, giving us His blessings because we have earned them; but it is forever true that the hearts that hearken when He calls and learn to obey in quick response, are the people that shall be able to go with confidence to Him when the great emergencies of life come. Our hearts would faint and fail were not able to claim Him as our present help in time of trouble. In contrast with this how dreadful that other picture of the selfish worldling, who refuses to listen to the call of God and some day himself shall call on God in vain. Listen, "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we know it not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?"

VII. Finally, the Lord has been pleased to give this Act of Faith and Love an Everlasting Memorial. It is not a little remarkable that in our Saviour's first sermon on earth in the synagogue at Nazareth, recorded in the fourth chapter of Luke, He should call special attention to this very case. In speaking of the work of Elijah this is the only incident that He mentions. "There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, but to none of them was he sent but to Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow." Why should he make mention of this very case? Perhaps for the same reason that He Himself has told us, wherever this Gospel is preached to tell of the love of Mary of Bethany in anointing Him for burial. It was no chance occurrence that the prophet should meet this woman. God had chosen her to be the instrument of blessing and service, and the Lord Jesus put His own emphatic seal upon that divine choice. Beloved, when God comes to you with some special opportunity of holy service, it is a high and heavenly calling for which you will forever thank and bless Him unless you are foolish enough to neglect and refuse it. So He is coming to you today in these last and closing days

of time and condescending to give you some noble part in the most glorious enterprise in all the annals of all the ages, a part in the bringing back of the King of kings and the establishment of His kingdom in the earth. What though you be poor and little known? He is rich enough and great enough to take your humble gift and multiply it a millionfold and to be pleased with your loving sacrifice and reward it some day with a crown of glory that fadeth not away. It is not the Christian and Missionary Alliance that is calling for your help. It is not a case of charity, humanity, or conventional religious work. It is the Lord Jesus who hath need of you and is saying to some of His missionaries, "I have commanded a widow to sustain thee." Shall we be true to our heavenly calling and some day hear Him say, "Ye did it unto Me."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."*—Jno. 14:18.

As a boy and a young convert, I could never get away from the longing to have been one of Christ's first disciples. Then, too, the words of the Lord Himself, as recorded in the New Testament, had more weight with me than any other portions of Scripture.

Since then I have come to see that our privilege of acquaintanceship with Jesus is unlimited. His personality has become to me so winsome and precious that I thrill with the revelations of Himself that He grants me, like Peter speaks of: "Whom, having not seen, we love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

And yet, with this experience, is an unutterable longing to know Him better. Paul, the apostle, speaks of it thus: "I count all things but loss \* \* \* that I may know Him." This longing is so intense, by times, and love for Him so overpowering, that one feels a physical ache, like the heart would be pulled out of one's body. The Holy Spirit, who does not speak of Himself, inspires this heart hunger that He may reveal Christ to the soul, until we know Him as intimately as did His first disciples.

Have you never noticed that at the very end of their three years sojourn with the Saviour, His disciples understood Him but vaguely. Consider Philip's request: "Lord, show us the Father." Then the Master's grieved reply, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me?" Someone has said that during His earthly life our Saviour was the most lonesome and misunderstood person in the world."

It is remarkable, too, that the only time we read of Christ rejoicing in spirit was when He saw that His disciples had understood things spiritual, that had been "hidden from the wise and the prudent." Then, again, when Peter says, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," we note the Master's glad response: "Flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but My Father, which is in heaven."

And yet it was after this that Peter denied his Lord; and they "all forsook Him and fled." But Pentecost cleared their vision and cured the runaway disposition by putting within them a principle of obedience and love to Christ that is stronger than life, and stronger than death.

We rejoice that Pentecost is promised to "as many as the Lord, or God, shall call." It does

a two-fold work for the soul, subtracts, "purifying their hearts by faith," as Peter testifies. Then it adds, by the incoming of the Holy Spirit, who takes complete possession and control, making Christ so real and lovable that one must tell it to others. The first Pentecostal burst of this Divine revelation was so great that the one hundred and twenty seem to all have been speaking at once. The same person that spoke through them was at the same time revealing Jesus as the Saviour to every willing heart. For "if any man will do My will he shall know the doctrine." Among the three thousand saved that day were many who had seen Christ do His mighty works, and heard His words. Then why had they not been saved long ago? For the same reason that the disciples had not understood their Lord. For it is the prerogative of the Holy Ghost to reveal Jesus to the soul. Then we must conclude that the Holy Spirit will reveal Him as clearly today as He ever did. Therefore we may know Him as well as did the first pentecostal church.

Another inevitable deduction is that He is thus revealed to us that we may hold Him up to others. Did not Paul say that "God revealed His son in Me that I might preach Him among the heathen." And the great success of this chiefest of the apostles was due, we all know, to the fact that he "preached Christ," and was "determined to know nothing among men, saving Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." And had not His Master said, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

The late Dr. A. B. Simpson testified that Christ was so real to him that "there is not an hour of the day or night that I am not conscious of somebody that is closer to me than my heart or my brain, I know that He is living in me." Another successful worker has said: "My chief asset in winning souls is the abiding consciousness of the presence of Christ."

Beloved, let us remember that God is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than parents are to give good gifts unto their children.—H. C. S

## OBITUARY.

A very sad accident occurred at South Devon, N. B., on Wednesday, August 5th, when Clark, the twelve-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Peterson, was drowned in the St. John River. He, with some other boys, had gone in bathing, and Clark, not being able to swim, got beyond his depth, and notwithstanding the brave efforts made by his companions to save him, they were unsuccessful.

The funeral service was held from the home of his uncle, Mr. Hanford McDonald (where Clark lived a part of his time) on Friday, the 7th inst., and was attended by the writer, assisted by Rev. J. B. Gough, Meth., and Rev. P. J. Trafton. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful, which spoke of the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. Clark was an exceptionally bright boy at school, having made an average of 94 in his last grading examinations. He was also a good Christian boy and spoke of his faith in Jesus at a prayer-meeting where he attended and took part a few evenings previous to his decease. He leaves, besides his sorrowing parents, one brother and one sister, both younger, and many other relatives and friends to mourn their sad loss, but we believe that he has gone to be with Jesus, so our loss is his gain. To his parents and sorrowing relatives we extend our sincere sympathy.—H. Smith Dow.