

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
Lord's day afternoon August 21st 1910

He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. (Psalm 102:17)

I had no thought of reading these words by way of a text until a few minutes before I entered the pulpit. It seems impossible for me to renew the morning subject; the very breathing of my soul this day, especially since this morning's service, has been: *Leave not my soul destitute*. I am glad that the psalmist was brought in soul feeling to cry unto the Lord: *Leave not my soul destitute (Psalm 141:8)*, and also to read the words we have read by way of text: *He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come*. This psalm is stifled, a prayer of the afflicted when he is overwhelmed and poureth out his complaint before the Lord. When this is the case, the soul has a case for the Lord, an urgent, pressing case. You will cry mightily unto the Lord that He will appear: "Lord, undertake for me; Lord, help me."

Look at the character for a moment, and then what is mentioned concerning the character. Destitute! *He will regard the prayer of the destitute*. He will not despise the prayer of the feelingly destitute soul, but will regard their prayer. Felt destitution. The Lord's people know something of this. I do not believe there is a gracious soul in this house of prayer but who sometimes feels destitute. This is the path the Lord's people are sometimes called to tread. No good in creature can be found. "I know there is no good in me," you can say. This is a trying spot to be in, and a solemn one so far as the soul is concerned. It seems at times as though I have never known anything of the things of God. Is there such a one in this house of prayer? If so, this will be the desire of your heart: *Leave not my soul destitute*.

You see, the destitute pray. It is a mercy to know something of felt destitution, and to cry unto the Lord when we are overwhelmed by reason of affliction and trials, and then to call upon the name of the Lord, and ask Him to undertake for us. The psalmist knew something of this path. I have a companion in the psalmist, and sometimes hope springs up in our breasts that if we tread the same path the Lord's people have trod, we shall be where they are some day. The psalmist is in heaven, and everyone who is brought to cry from the depths of their soul: *Leave not my soul destitute*, will get to heaven, where sin cannot intrude. This is the way the Lord prepares His people for heaven, to feel soul destitution, and to call upon Him, and to receive from Him. In Jesus Christ all fulness dwells. The person destitute prays, he wants something, he asks for something. He cannot call it prayer, and yet he does pray, and the Lord's hand is upon him, the Lord's afflictions are upon him, and He intends to do great things for such a one. This poor man sighs and weeps before the Lord.

What is it to pray? *'Tis to hear the Holy Spirit prompting us to secret prayer. (Joseph Hart)* You have never prayed yet, unless the Holy Spirit has prompted you to pray. O my dear hearers, I must ask you: Do you pray? Real prayer is the breath of God in the soul, and He is the inditer of real prayer. And do you think for one moment that God will turn a deaf ear to that prayer He indites? Such a prayer the Lord hears and answers. Men may despise your petitions, but God never will. The destitute soul – I mean, one in soul feeling destitute, because after all he is not destitute – has a living faith.

*The Christian often cannot see
His faith, and yet believes. (Joseph Hart)*

The very fact of this feelingly destitute soul calling upon the name of the Lord proves that he has faith. God is the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. So he calls upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beseech Thee, leave not my soul destitute. If ever Thou hast done anything for me, make it manifest."

Leave not my soul destitute of grace. Can you come in there, poor soul? It is good prayer – that it is! That soul will know something of the power of Christ. That soul goes to the throne of grace asking for grace. That soul shall receive grace for grace. Leave not my soul destitute of Thy grace. Give me grace that I may grow in grace.

Leave not my soul destitute of the grace of hope. Now friends, you may feel destitute, and yet you have a hope that you would not part with for a million worlds. Some say, “I seem so destitute of grace.”

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness. (Edward Mote)*

It is a mercy, beloved, to have a good hope.

*Good hope, through grace, the saints possess,
The fruit of Jesus' righteousness. (John Stevens)*

O what a mercy when your soul is revived, and hope springs up, and you say, “I hope in the mercy of God.” You will want a good hope soon, friends. It will not be long before you come face to face with death.

Leave not my soul destitute of godly fear. It is a mercy to have this grace of fear. O to have this fear in exercise in our souls! The man that fears God is a blessed man. He will prove God's faithfulness, and it will be well with him when called to die. Those that fear the Lord love the company of the Lord's people. They would not be in the company of the world any longer than they could help. A man is known by the company he keeps; it is manifest in our walk. If you could choose your company this evening, where would you be? In the company of the Lord's people, or in the company of the ungodly? You say, “I would be in the company of those that speak of the things of God, and of what they have tasted and felt.

Leave not my soul destitute of love. Sometimes the soul feels destitute of love, and cries:

*Kindle a flame of sacred love
In this cold heart of mine. (Isaac Watts)*

Is it not sweet when this love is in exercise in the soul? *We love him because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)* *Many waters cannot quench love. (Song of Solomon 8:7).* The love of Christ constrains us to love Him, and to love His dear people. I have been encouraged many times by this portion of the Word of God: *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. (1 John 3:14)* We do not love God if we do not love the brethren. I love all them which love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth. This love prompts to acts of kindness one towards another. Love to the Word of God. Is there any book in the universe like this Book? Not if you have the love of God shed abroad in your soul. *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of (Christ). (John 5:39)*

Leave not my soul destitute of faith. O it is a mercy to have a grain of faith, and to have faith in exercise in the soul. Sometimes you feel so destitute of faith, and is not this the very breathing of your heart, when you fall at the feet of the Lord: *Leave not my soul destitute of living faith?* O I wish I had more faith. Even when we feel destitute of faith, it is there. The Lord said to His disciples: *Why is it ye have no faith?* They had faith, but there was none in exercise. God works His sovereign will, and we cannot believe that these things we are being called to pass through are for our good. But when the Lord gives us faith, then we can see that it is all for our good. *All things work together for good to them that love God. (Romans 8:28)*

*Could we see how all is right,
Where were room for credence?
But by faith, and not by sight,
Christians yield obedience. (Joseph Hart)*

This brings you to cry mightily to the Lord: *Leave not my soul destitute* of faith.

*O that I had a stronger faith,
To look within the veil;
To credit what my Saviour saith,
Whose words can never fail. (John Ryland)*

O to have faith in exercise in my soul to believe that God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

*All must come, and last, and end,
As shall please my heavenly Friend. (John Ryland)*

Abraham believed God. It was accounted to him for righteousness. Everything seemed against the fulfilment of the promise. But he was strong in faith, giving glory to God. How many years had he to wait for the fulfilment of the promise? I could tell you, but I will leave you to find it out! *Faith eyes the promise firm and sure*, though we may have to wait for years. Delays are not denials. He is faithful, and will fulfil all He has promised.

Leave not my soul destitute of faith in the Son of God. A God of providence. Are all things against you in providence? Do you look on the right hand and on the left? Trying spot to be in! You need the grace of faith, and this will be your cry: *Leave not my soul destitute*. Lord, Thou hast provided for me, help me to believe. O Lord, I would believe; help my unbelief. You will find this, friends: the Lord will do more than you are able to ask or even to think. *He will regard the prayer of the destitute* – your broken petition, your weeping, your sighing. And they shall live to prove Him to be a God nigh at hand in all that they call upon Him for. They shall prove, friends that He is able to make all things work together for good. And He is able to spread a table for them in the wilderness, in spite of all their doubts and fears.

Leave not my soul destitute. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

We must leave the subject. May the Lord add His blessing.