

Though especially ^{relating} to the ascension of the Lord Jesus and the precious gift to His Church of the descent of the Holy Ghost on His dear disciples who had been taught to tarry "in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The word is applicable concerning John Baptist at this season and as seen in the part of the paragraph read. For John Baptist had a specific, holy purpose in saying to the two of his disciples as he saw Jesus walking, "Behold the Lamb of God." The Scripture on my mind is, "And they went forth, and preached everywhere." John Baptist had the joy of seeing the blessed Redeemer Himself, his dear Saviour, the Lamb of God, and the refulgent beams of His glory irradiated his soul as he preached. "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." God was working with him in his ministry and He confirmed His word by signs following in relation to the two disciples. It is a beautiful, wonderful word. What was the issue? We could say of the two disciples through his ministry, seeing for themselves the glory of the Lord, that they walked into the green pastures and by the still waters of this word, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious." It was John's design that they should by faith ^{HAVE} fixation of their souls on the dear Lamb of God: that His glory should shine into their hearts and they see in Him the object of desire and love, and see in Him their souls' salvation, and Heaven and peace and bliss and complete satisfaction. The disciples became believers

in the Lord Jesus to a far greater degree than before, and they knew what it was for their souls to be filled with a sense of the unparalleled attraction of the Lord Jesus. Here was the one object of faith, hope and love. The blessed One they viewed with adoration and wonder became exceedingly precious to their souls. You cannot know Jesus without loving Him above all beside. So here was the result. People not instructed in sacred matters would say it must have been a disappointment for John. This was the object John had in view. He was His forerunner in his ministry of repentance for remission of sins. He said, "whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." We have quoted from the Scriptures, "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." He wished to see the Holy Bridegroom come and take his bride. That is an exposition of this portion. The two disciples of John followed Jesus. My object, as you will discern, is the following word and the exposition of His glory, and may it shine now in our souls. When it does you will be satisfied, you will be with Him for ever. What a prospect! You will behold 'yon lovely Man', your dear Redeemer, the Lamb of God in heavenly bliss, face to face

You will see my purpose. They followed Christ. It was permanent, they became inseparable. Living faith in exercise creates according to the purpose of God an attachment that is inseparable. Once living faith takes hold of the Lord Jesus it will never let go. Once you have the orientation of your soul by faith you will be looking unto Jesus. There is Heaven in this. How many believe that Christ and you are inseparable? "O Love, that will not let me go." Christ will never let you go. The Father will never let you go, the Holy Spirit will never let you go. Living faith will never let Him go. You will cling. Your anchor hope is cast within the blessed anchor ground and it goes deeper. Wonderful to have union and communion with Him!

They followed Jesus. He was drawing them by His love. "Draw me, we will run after thee." There is nothing mechanical about holy religion. It is not dry, orthodox, harsh. He draws you by His irresistible grace, His immutable love, the attraction of His glorious Person. He takes your heart and He has you. How many can say the Lord has taken your heart to

Heaven with Him? The Lord had a loving interest in the two disciples, and others, for we read that 'Jesus turned'. He knew the secrets of their hearts, the progressive revelation that was taking place in them. They knew the baptism of John; he had preached as far as he knew, and his preaching pointed to the Lord Jesus. How could he preach the ~~xxx~~ accomplished work of redemption, the shedding of vital blood, restoring honour to the law, the expiation of sin, and sacrificial death? The Lord Jesus, ^{knew} in the souls of the two, He by His Spirit was giving to them the glory of progressive revelation. They were seeing Him as the Lamb of God, "the sacrifice by God appointed," the divine Paschal Lamb who would offer the sum total of His humanity on the altar of His Deity as Great High Priest to expiate the sins of His people. Do you know what it is to feel the Lord is granting you progressive revelation? You are seeing more of divine truth than you had done in ten years. You get a complete view of the Lord Jesus and His work in the economy of grace in salvation. That is what was taking place in their souls. You do not want to be static; you want to be favoured with progressive revelation: you will never get to the end of it. They followed Jesus, and they will follow Him for ever. Are you amongst them?

"Then Jesus turned," as if He should see in the congregation souls being drawn out to Him, feeling in their souls the intense drawing of His grace and love, the preciousness in the Person of Christ. "Then Jesus turned," He looks at His people, speaks to them. It is so personal He will turn and look on you, and He knows the wonderful operations and influences of the Spirit in your souls. He turns to you, and you feel as if it is only Jesus and you in the Sanctuary, you and Jesus, and there is communion. You forget all else. "Then Jesus turned, and saw them following." He knew. If I had the help of the Holy Ghost and grace and strength I might preach for a long time on following. If you refer to it in conversation some would think it meant a person making a public profession of the Lord's Name. If by the grace and Spirit of God you are thus helped to follow Him by giving your testimony and passing through the waters of baptism to the communion of His body and blood, there is communion. Usually there is a sweet season. I thought, Jesus was baptise and you are, and you are following Him. After His baptism "Jesus was led

up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." This is the old path: it is a part of following Jesus. I have known this and participated in it. People have joy, and it is not long before they follow the Master into the wilderness and walk a dark path for a while. There is more in it than you would think at first. You do not know what you will come into. Christ had a cross and we have. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." In Gethsemane He had His cup, and a child of God will have his or her cup. When He was apprehended all His disciples forsook Him and fled and you may taste the same. You are alone and it is all part of following the Lord: this is not generally realised. It is like a Text book. You learn academically: you learn theory and the Lord teaches you sound doctrine, but you have got to come into the experience of it. They followed Jesus. Some have said Jesus died on His cross, and you will find a child of God does. Some have had their bitterest things at the end of the journey and died on their cross. You have got Heaven, but it is, "if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." To follow Christ is a suffering life in many ways. Many of the people of God know what it is to suffer physically, mentally, in their souls, lot, path, family, circumstances. If any sympathised and the Lord sanctified the path they would say, "My friend, think of the sufferings of my Saviour, His agony in the garden and on the cross, and He was pure and holy. I am a sinner and can't complain. I am out of hell and have a hope of Heaven. Wherefore ~~should~~^{doth} a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?" Do you hope you are in this path? I say to you, however hard it seems to your poor flesh and however painful your afflictions, the Lord will give you a kiss. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine." There will be things that more than compensate you. The Lord says, "Son, be of good ~~cheer~~ cheer," He cheers His people. "thy sins be forgiven thee." The Lord comes and He knows how to cheer your spirit. "We then move cheerful on." If you are a true follower you will see the shining gates, you will see the King in His beauty, the land that is not far off: it is near; the Happy Land where all His glorified saints are and little children. There is the voice of children and of the saints all singing His everlasting praises.

You have have started to sing: in the midst of pain and trial you sing and join with them above.

"Then Jesus turned, and saw them following." He put a question to them and they answered it. He said, "What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? They wanted to know. We should like to be with Thee, not for a few moments; to be with the Saviour. He answered in a wonderful way. "Come and see where I dwell." He would indulge them. "They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour." "Where dwellest thou? Come and see." Is not this one of the inquiries of gracious hearts? Wouldn't you love to be with Jesus all day and all the time, never go out, never part? "Where dwellest thou? Come and see. I will show you." What is the answer to the question? I will begin with the only begotten Son dwelling in a human body.

"Till God in human flesh I see,
My thoughts no comfort find;
The holy, just, and sacred Three,
Are terrors to my mind.

But if Immanuel's face appear,
My hope, my joy begins;
His Name forbids my slavish fear;
His grace removes my sins."

You must see God in human flesh. It was needful for Him to assume a holy, human body into union with His Deity and so give His life, be our Surety, die voluntarily and fulfil the law and sustain all His New Covenant offices to His Church. He dwells in human flesh. You believe it yet it seems incredible. The dear Lord Jesus had a true human body like your own but absolutely holy and glorious. He dwells there. Isaiah declares, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place." "Where dwellest thou? Come and see." You will presently, when you yield your breath to Him. We shall see where He dwells and abide with Him for ever. He is saying to us, "Come and see where I dwell."

"Thou shalt see My glory soon,
When the work of grace is done;
Partner of My Throne shalt be;
Say, poor sinner, lovest thou Me?"

"Come and see." He will say it to you on a dying bed, or near the end of

your race. "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit." That is where I dwell. "Come and see." Come means enjoy it. You will know the enjoyment of the Saviour dwelling with you. "I will prepare the chamber ~~the chamber~~ of your breast and dwell with you.

"to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." "Where dwellest thou? Come and see."

"His mercy visits every house,
That pay their night and morning vows;
But makes a more delightful stay
Where Churches meet to praise and pray."

"This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." He dwells in Zion by His Spirit, in His word, His gospel, in the hearts of His dear people. "Where dwellest thou? Come and see." This has held me at the Dicker all these years. He dwells in this pulpit, in this holy place and others. He dwells in Zion. It is wonderful to know the Lord's dwelling place. "Come and see," This will hold you fast. You will never depart if you get a taste of it in your soul. Friends, does He dwell in your hearts? "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." He says, "Come and see." I will dwell in your heart because you have dwelt in Mine for ever. "Come and see." He dwells in the hearts of His people by His Spirit and by His grace to purify and sanctify them. He dwells in the hearts of His dear people by divine power to keep them. He dwells in the hearts of His dear people by His wisdom to direct them. He dwells ^{in the hearts} of His people by His infinite merit to justify them. He dwells in the hearts of His people as their Friend and Saviour, and as their sympathising High Priest so He communes with them and enters into their griefs and sorrows.

So, "Master, where dwellest thou? Come and see." This is the last Lord's Day of the year. The Lord bless all of you, your families, those in sickness and those who are not here. May it be your blessed, everlasting portion that the Lord says to you, "Come and see," and may you have the joy of knowing He dwells in your heart and you in His, and eternally in Heaven. Amen.