

Our blessed Lord here immediately relates the holy, precious, sacred doctrine of His cross and Passion to His own disciples in all ages in that it is His wish and divine purpose, and there will not be a diversion from it, because it is His holy sovereign pleasure and divine will that there will be a cross for all His people, and there is for me. So it is incumbent on us this afternoon, as we trust to receive the unction of the Spirit, to work out the passage read, and you will notice how significant it unfolds. "If any man will come after me," To really come after Christ means He will have your heart. If not, there will never be a sincere coming after Christ. So I present the glorious truth of true discipleship to the congregation now,- following the Leader,- Christ being the glorious Leader, and following Him. "If any man will come after me." One ~~was~~ was presented in the Lesson this afternoon; it is truly wonderful to point to the blessed Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John Baptist had with adoring faith proclaimed the presence of the divine Person in their midst. God had given him a special sign; "Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

So we have here the wondrous truth and holy doctrine of divine revelation. The term I used this morning is synonymous,- 'unveiling'. What you have no knowledge of is unveiled. The whole process of the teaching and work of the Lord is unveiling. Every step in the divine

purposes of God are revealed to you. I will give you a sweet and simple word which <sup>will</sup> assist your mind, - I have probably named it before. I remember well, sitting and hearing dear Mr Bradbury in Notting Hill Chapel in 1932. It was spontaneously revealed to me that I should stand in that pulpit one day. The Lord does this. He gives a revelation and the thing is settled, yet it has been hidden in the eternal mind and counsel of God from all eternity, and it is revealed to you. A heavenly light discovers to you the eternal decree, promise, pleasure, will of your God, and a wonderful characteristic is, there is no doubt about it; no ambiguity; not a shadow of doubt. You sit in the pew and you are as sure as you sit there that certain things will come to pass; that you will be in glory. Christ is revealed. O what a sight! The glory of the only begotten Son of God shines into your soul, as we had on Thursday, the open face, the veil removed. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

So John had this; "Behold the Lamb of God." John was the Bridegroom's friend and He had come to take His wife. John had his disciples: Christ had His. "Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God." The two disciples left John; they were gone; they were no longer the disciples of John. He was the blessed forerunner to prepare the way of the Lord; and now John announces the coming of the Lord and the two disciples are after Christ. "If any man will come after me." If you have heard by the Holy Ghost; "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," you have left all and gone after Him. This is it. Have you never known in a divine service for Jesus to come and take your heart, and you felt comforted and blessed and you left all on earth and went after Christ? "Thou, O Christ, art all I want." That is how we have disciples of Christ: and see the sequence. As they followed Him, for beauty, preciousness, assessment of value and worth and great need, the One they had been seeking, the Messiah, they found Him. They knew the Lord's attention, and Jesus turned, and He knew they were following Him. He will turn and speak to you, poor soul. He said to them, "What seek ye? what are you after?" They said to Him; "Master, where dwellest thou?"

They wanted to be with Him. "Come and see." O the intense spiritual satisfaction, joy and peace! What a holy occasion it was! He still says the same, my friends. Is this the language of your heart? "Where dwellest Thou?...Come and see."

I will make a proposition to you. If you are seeking Christ, do you want to know where He dwells? and if you find Him, do you want to remain with Him to the end of your days, and be translated to glory? It is the same with a Chapel, a house, or rather, a home. I am not interested in a house it is a home. Have you known what it is to walk into a home and there has been a wonderful influence in it? You wonder why at first; then you have said; "This is where the Lord dwells. I want to stay here; this is the place for me." This is what the Lord is talking about. "Come and see where I dwell." He dwells in the high and holy place, His seat of majesty and glory; and He dwells with a humble and contrite heart. He says; "Come and see." I must <sup>not</sup> go too far, but I have felt this. It is personal for all of us. There is a home where one comes and brings Christ and peace. It is a wonderful thing: it is like an angel coming under the roof. You might feel; "Lord, I could have this one to nurse me on a dying bed." There is such a sweet atmosphere of peace and the Lord's presence. "Come and see." This is where the Lord dwells. Obviously if you get a character like this you wonder if they are long for this world. Could that be said of you? of me? It is not a tremendous flow of language; it is an influence a presence. The Lord is there. "Come and see." I know it takes much to bring one to a frame of willingness to die. If you have come where He said; "Come and see," you will feel; "I can die here. This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

"They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour." It is the same in the Sanctuary. "Where dwellest thou? Come and see." And your heart will reach <sup>out</sup> for those who know Him not, that they want to know where the Lord dwells, and you say; "Come and see," and the Lord will bless them. Where Christ is there is peace. "Come and see." If you said to me; "Where is He? I want to come and see." My friend, the day will come when you will see He is in the water, in the grave, and you will see Him in the baptismal pool. "Master, where dwellest thou?" "Come and see." He condescended to die and be buried

and you say; "I cannot go to Israel." You see what He has ordained,- His own commandment; "Come and see." You say; "I must draw back." It is through this to the blessing: this is obedience. "They abode with Him." If only you could realise the blessings that await souls who are obedient You want to say; "I have got a tremendous experience, and all the circumstances are convenient." No: it is; "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power." The circumstances may be inconvenient: if it is the Lord's time, "Suffer it to be so now." "Wilt thou go with this man? I will go." This is it, "for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." The only matter for us is to come and see where the Lord dwells. "Let others stretch their arms like seas,"-this is all you have a mind after. The world has gone mad, seeking all below: a moment puts an end to it. If you have got this, come and see where the Lord dwells; in your heart, home, the House of God: come and see. These are disciples. You cannot help being a disciple. You do not blow yourself up with fleshly zeal, but because of the excellency of His Person, and this is put in your heart, you love Him because He loves you. You will follow Him: you will go up the track till you are with Him. You will go on pursuing, though it is as if you will lose your life. You will find it. I cannot express it to you as I would, but I have felt, "And must it, Lord, be so? and I have said; Lord, must it be? the sinking, buffeting, the crosses, difficulties, as if you daily lose your life. This is the path His people tread. I suppose you think one day it will be vastly different. No: this is the path, and these are the souls that find Him; they are following Him

So you see the exquisite beauty of, "Come and see." If when you get to the chair or the bed you feel the Lord is in the house,- "Come and see," there will be something wonderful about you. "Come and see." What a word! Don't forget;

"Jesus' grave before you lies;  
Be interred at His commanding;  
After His example rise." (428)

View that grave as the hymn says; 'with understanding'. "Come and see." Some of you have, and you found Him there, in the water. "Come and see." I would think you will be as Mary; you will get to the sepulchre, and when you get there you will shed your tears into the grave. The angels said; "Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

You must come and see this as well: to Gethsemane, to the cross; "come and see; and one day you who Jesus' cross have received "shall see Him crowned at home." (228) So He will say to you; "Come and see the King in glory. Come and see." These are disciples of Christ. O the tremendous impelling power! the constraining power! the drawing after! You are His disciple. I am not cynical about lawful things, but say you have a season and see the beauties of Nature, and suddenly you say; "O my poor soul! I feel destitute. Lord, Thou knowest there is nothing below can satisfy; gold will not, nor house or land. It is 'Thou, O Christ, art all I want'" Are you like that? You are one of His disciples. Your heart pines for Him for Christ. So you see you are His disciple; you so long for Him because He is your All. You are supremely happy when He comes: it is dark when He withdraws.

So you are a disciple. One who heard Him speak and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, and he was so full of the joy of Christ he went after his own brother. He found his own brother Simon, "and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah." There was a body of precious souls waiting, longing. Nathanael was one. Philip said to him, "We have found him." It seems as though Nathanael was<sup>a</sup> very quiet, studious man under the fig tree. He was meditating, and he knew a lot about Moses and the law and the prophets, and there was this One who should come. So Philip came and said, "We have found Him." These are disciples. "We have found the precious Person, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write." So Andrew found Simon and said; "We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ, -Him." Can you say that? "We have found Him" "And he brought him to Jesus." That is how the Lord gathered His disciple and He still goes on gathering. Are you one of these Christ has found, and you find others and bring them to Jesus? "And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone." The ~~next~~ day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip." Surely there are some in Great Britain who are dear to you He is going to find presently?. There may be nine millions in the metropolis: the Lord will go and find His own He knows where they are. Is this your prayer?

If He says to you; "Follow Me." what will you do? stay where you are?

"Follow Me," is His commandment. It means everything: to follow Him as your Saviour, by faith; in the path of tribulation; the cross; and in His holy ordinances and blessed commandments. "Follow Me. Follow Me." Philip followed Him, and he found Nathanael under the fig tree, studying. "We have found Him." If the Lord has a favour to your soul the day will come when you will find Him. Probably you will not rest until all in the house have found Him, if it is His sovereign pleasure. There was the case of the jailer, and Lydia, and all in the house found Him. When He finds you you will follow Him. How His loving heart will draw you! You will follow Him, - the charm of His Person, mind, spirit, grace. O the beauty of Christ! You will follow Him. You are a poor band in yourselves: you feel ragged, limping, with sores and wounds; some are lame. See how the Lord blesses and heals, and they walk, run, leap, as the lame man went into the temple walking, and leaping, and praising God. The thing is to be a true follower of His precious Person; His disciples. We have found a few in the Scriptures and in the congregation.

This is wonderfully set forth in the case of the emaciated woman, in all her distress and pain, the length of her illness, and she heard of Christ. It is wonderful to find unction in the preaching of the gospel and it comes to your soul with efficacy. You hear of Christ and you follow Him. You can go from the Sanctuary and you have got a sweetness in your heart. Do you know the feeling of it? Deep down in your heart it is sweet and you would not part with it for the world. It has come to you, and it stays: there is sweetness, comfort, peace, hope, blessing. You have heard of Christ and you follow. This is a wonderful favour. If I may so say, we felt it at Horam on Wednesday, and I did in hearing Mr Jupp.

Now we have disciples. "If any man will come after me," They are coming after. Why? It is for eternal life. It is because (you do not know it at first) you are espoused to Him in righteousness. He has taken your heart. You have no heart left for any thing else. He is the only Sovereign of your heart. He is the dear Object of desire and intense need. You need Him in every way. What would you do without your Husband? without Christ? You need Him, so you come after Him, And His teaching is so wonderful. His gospel is peerless, priceless, invaluable. You want to know more of Him; to drink of His Spirit; to be ~~with~~ one with Him. You want the marriage to be complete, so you come after Him. That soul is finished for the world.

If Christ has taken your heart you will prove it. You will find the world has lost its attraction in every way. It is sweet when He draws you and you run. "If any man will come after me," You will prove what I have said

"If any man will come after me," There are two things. "let him deny himself." You may say; "I do not like that." Flesh and blood wants to be gratified, satisfied, pleased. This is one of the first principles of the Kingdom; "let him deny himself." You are not in the spirit of the Text if you think this is a bitter thing. If Jesus has your heart it is not a bitter thing. Why, my friends, when you think who is your Prince, King, Husband, Father, Friend, and all things are yours, and of His lovingkindness and compassion, and of the gift of eternal life, and the blessed Country you go to, it will not be bitter for you to deny self. You do not want the flesh to rob your soul. So you will be as Moses, when he came of years spiritually. He knew Christ by faith, and he denied himself He "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,- that is, the cross." This is the path you are in. It is the path you are walking. There is nothing strange about it. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction;- made willing, with a gracious understanding in it;- with the people, <sup>of God</sup> than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." He denied himself. This is sweet.

And then, "take up his cross," I thought to day I should speak a lot about the cross, but I have hardly reached it. There is this cross.

"Whate'er Thy sacred will ordains,

O give me strength to bear; - that is, the cross,  
And let me know my Father reigns;

And trust His tender care." (1083) Amen.