

Preached by J.W. Speding-Tyler

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Afternoon Lesson. Revelation 21. TEXT REVELATION 22 V 17

There is an unparalleled blessedness in the paragraph, in the term of just a few syllables, adding up to the most remarkable word that can come from the precious lips of our incarnate Redeemer to guilty, fallen, wretched, undone men, deserving hell and everlasting perdition; that He should ever address them by such a term, Come. The whole force and concentration of the term 'come' signifies and expresses His boundless, ineffable, immutable love to them; that He has a relationship to them in the Covenant of Grace which cannot be dissolved or disannulled, and the great importance of the term is the invitation of Christ to sinners, - penitent, humbled, broken-hearted, mourning, troubled, distressed, broken in spirit and body and heart. The importance of the word is, all those who have life in their souls long to hear this spoken to them. "Come unto Me," says Christ, "all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And there is something else to name: the tremendous importance of the word lies in the fact that there is only one alternative it must be "Depart." He will either welcome you; bid you come; or bid you depart, "ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." All those who recognise their need of Christ; their need of divine mercy, He will welcome to Himself.

Just to mention the other facet before I seek by the grace of God to expound further; the greatest glory and honour that can ever be conferred on a penitent soul, is to be so richly endowed with the grace of the Spirit, to be so sanctified by His indwelling, that they may with sacred liberty and divine authority and holy ~~boldness~~ boldness come to the blessed point in experience where they are able to issue out an invitation to Christ to come into His garden, that is, our heart. I have spoken to you of this under the terminology, - the Personal Advent of Christ. Just as He was born in Bethlehem, so He comes to your heart and you find Him there, lying in your very heart: Christ has come. This is an experience that eclipses all words to describe; to be able to know the Saviour is in your heart: yet it is the only satisfaction there is with those who

fear God.

I know, standing here over many years, I run the risk of repeating various things to you, but to demonstrate the point we are on, probably the case of the late beloved Mrs R. Field is a remarkable example, because as you may remember who knew and visited her, in that blessed dying chamber, in the new house they had moved to at Pick Hill, where she lay a-dying, (I suppose I saw her a matter of hours before her translation) when one entered the room the sun shone in his strength. Christ was there. we had the same type of experience with dear Mrs E. Field, when the sun shone in the night, - the colour of amber. But with dear Ruth Field it was so powerful and glorious, I discerned immediately the glory of the Son of God incarnate in that dying chamber. This is a really powerful demonstration of the Text; "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come." The dear mellowed countenance beaming forth echoed the joy she experienced. It was almost like looking on one in heaven, or nearly there. There were just a few words between us; it was ^{not} necessary to speak much. She said to me affectionately concerning Christ; "He is here; just here," and she put her hands in front of her. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come." The dear family must complete the story of her blessed testimony. Her eldest son said; "Mother presently said; 'He's come.' and in a few minutes she had gone." I am suggesting to you, whether you are a business man in middle life, with many responsibilities, or a mother with a family, if the life of God is in your souls, it is the basin concentration of holy desire in you that He should come.

So I will just go aside to say I believe it will be comparatively ^{obvious} to your mind, that although crumbs of mercy are invaluable, and a few times of refreshing are precious, there is what we may speak of as a crowning blessing, when your life is crowned with love. He will crown thee with lovingkindness and tender mercy. That is what the Text expresses when Christ comes. You have this so wonderfully set before you in Simeon's case, The special showing or revelation of the Holy Ghost to him. Simeon's secret which he carried. Do you carry a secret? I do not know how old he was. I always think of him as a saintly aged figure in Jerusalem; one of the small going to see death, but to see the Lord's Christ first; to have that which [^] would complete his hope and crown him with praise, See the

holy sequence and the blessed sequel, the activity of the Holy Ghost; the coming into the temple at the right time, and the identification of Christ. I suppose many of you love to put your arms round a babe: ~~if~~ it is your own it is indescribable. Think of what it means if the Lord has given you the instrument of prehension, - the hands and arms of faith, to come to the maximum use when you get your arms right round Him. This is the crowning blessing: it is the coming of our Saviour to your soul. I do not want this to be just a reverie, but I cannot help going back over the years I have been with this people, and a realisation over the years with first one, then another, then another. What happened? The Bridegroom came and I knew from the pulpit. Emily Vine, old Mr Cottingham, and others: Christ came; the blessing they had waited for for years had come; and when this happens it is not long before you are in everlasting bliss. O the wonder of it!

I will say another word; it is this. You who long for His appearing, for this blessing, this satisfaction and assurance, pray on, hope on. Plead with Him; wait: you will never wait in vain. The blessing will come to you. I believe there are a number in this holy place who are in the same place with those Anna spoke to in the temple. We seldom hear of her, but she had a word to say. She 'spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." They looked for redemption. Poor soul, are you looking for redemption? waiting, longing, panting, trusting? She "spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Presently the Lord will favour you in the manner in the Text.

I will endeavour to open the word further. The sermon will be a concentration on the first part of the Text. So, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come." This is addressed to Christ. I want to know, if the good Lord will reveal it to me, the meaning of the Holy Ghost in this portion. The Spirit and the bride say to Christ, "Come." I think I will start here. In the gospels you see Christ exalting the Father. In the Acts of the Apostles the leading feature is the Holy Spirit exalting Christ. He is exalted in the heavens, in the Scriptures, in the Church, and in our souls personally. So what is, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come."? Undoubtedly it is the grand and blessed and inexpressible secret; the indwelling Spirit of God the people of God know, based on the sacred,

sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of our blessed Lord, and on the pouring out of the Spirit at Pentecost. He had promised to send them another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of God indwells the soul of every believer. O to know and feel it more! Take the word; "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?" I want to pause here. The coming of the Spirit, the indwelling of the Spirit is the most sacred, positive, potent experience. I know the people of God in many cases are greatly exercised concerning one thing among others, that is, do they know the baptism of the Spirit? I remember Miss Alice Popham was deeply tried after her father's death as to the baptism of the Spirit; had she known it?

So if I feel liberty given me I want to dwell on this because, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come." refers to the indwelling of the Spirit of God,- dwelling in the souls of believers. Do you hope you know what it is to receive the baptism of the Spirit? If you say to me; "What is it like?" Just as the waiting disciples on the day of Pentecost suddenly experienced a descent of sacred energy and power; the Holy Ghost descended on them. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. - and this is it.- And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Do we know that? If I could venture before God to give a description of it, I would say to you first it is to experience a very sacred, powerful, divine influence that permeates your spirit and seems to fill the room or the Sanctuary where you are found. I experienced it in the School room: that is why it is a very sacred place to me. It seemed to be filled with holy incense,- a divine atmosphere and influence, and presently the almighty, celestial, divine influence descended on me, and just filled my very person. (I do not like naming self.) As it filled me, after a few moments I felt transported, lifted from the earth to the heavens, and in a measure I became unconscious of a human body. I never knew I had legs or a body,- gone. The heavenly transport of the coming of the Spirit gave me to feel I was lifted to heaven. I was not speaking myself: it was the Spirit of

God speaking through me. It is absolutely beyond all expression when the Spirit fills you. You walk into the Sanctuary, stand in the pulpit, sit in the pew, and there is such peace, stillness, sacredness, and all your bonds are loosed. There is joy, a holy atmosphere. It is the Holy Spirit, and you are as free as the oxygen you breathe: there is perfect liberty. If you have gone in with trembling, with a burden, you lose your load, or it is lessened. If you have gone with pain it is mitigated: if with wounds they are soothed, and you say; "The Lord is in this place." The Spirit of God enters your soul,- that Holy Dove, and you feel in a gracious frame. There is no barrier, no separating wall, and the world recedes. It is the Holy Spirit. The sweet Person of Christ is set before the eye of faith; projected to the vision of faith. How you love Him! and when this is so you feel as though you are there. You feel, "Lord, if this is the moment, I am ready to come. It is well with my soul." There is not a shadow of doubt; you have full assurance. If you get this you will run in His delightful ways.

Do you know what it is for the Spirit to descend? You have divine light; you see in the Scriptures the deep couching beneath. You see the Lamb: you see the Land that is afar off. You see Jesus; you see His track in to glory. You are inspired; you have a holy zeal, the comfort of hope; you lean on His loving breast. You are as a bride adorned for her husband: you have your wedding garment and your jewels; all the virtues and graces of the Spirit the Lord adorns you with. It is the Spirit. You are loving: you could not be more loving. You embrace the whole Church of God,- poor needy sinners. You forgive everyone. Your faith is strong and pierces the skies. Your anchor is so firm, and you know it: it holds within the veil. It is the Spirit of God, my friends. Wonderful! Where this is you are liberated to commune with the Trinity and with His Son Jesus Christ, and with all saints. A wonderful thing communion is. You will say; "Tell me about it." It is something that enters your heart, and that something enters with divine power and unction, and you will never lose it. These two are one. Whatever the storms or tempests or trials there is sweet communion. It can be from the pulpit to the pew: from heart to heart in private. O this communion! I had an unexpected season of it early this year, and I remain

silent, but it was so unexpected, and it entered my very soul. I shall never lose it to my dying day. It created a union in half an hour. It is the Holy Spirit. I am not speaking against learning, but you might have a most learned exposition, the greatest eloquence: it is nothing to you without unction, The Holy Ghost, the Spirit. When He descends it is done in your heart.

This has been a very poor attempt to speak of the Advent of the Spirit. You will know it. How happy you are! I was thinking of Mrs Emily Stevens, a dear, gracious lady who never really spoke in all the years I knew her. She hardly said anything at all. When the Lord translated her I shall never forget. Why? Because the Spirit descended; the Dove was there; peace indescribable. You will know when the Holy Ghost comes to your house, your room, your heart. You will get a little of what I have felt over the last few hours,- almost as though the dawn of everlasting day was beginning to break. Then I heard, the news was brought to me of the passing to glory of two I loved much in Christ, and it was as if heaven was about to dawn. You will know this is the Spirit. So the more the Spirit abides in you, and the blessed Spirit wonderfully fills you with all His graces and sanctifying power for the coming of Christ, kindling in your breast a holy vehement desire, an intense longing, great love, blessed faith, sweet humility, all the graces, so your heart is ready to break with love to the Lord Jesus. He is preparing you.

Look how the Spirit said "Come" in prophecy; writing and speaking in Holy Scripture to the saints waiting for His appearing. The Lord said to Jacob; "I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." And in Habakkuk; "The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."- that is, the prophecy of the coming of the Spirit. You see, wherever the Spirit is, His gracious influence in the heart, you are waiting for the coming of Christ. I could go back over many occasions. I will name two: one at Galeed under Mr J.K. Popham. If ever Christ came He did on that Sunday morning. My heart was so broken with divine love, I longed to be with Christ. The ^{other} was under his dear brother, Mr Henry Popham, when I was in my teens and seeking the Lord, and oh how sweet his ministry was to me! He preached Christ to my

heart, You will know it in a moment. I came out from the Chapel and I did not want to know anything about earth. I had the sweetness of a living hope in a dear Saviour. It was so wonderful to me that I could tell both about it in their last days. I had communion with the two dear brothers.

So He prepares you as a bride: you are betrothed; it will be a seal on your breast. He will cast a loving look on you: He is very jealous of you and you of Him, and the Spirit will prepare you. Dear Naomi had the joy to seek rest for Ruth and to prepare her. She knew it would not be long before he had finished it. "Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, - did you hear? Christ will not be in rest, until He have finished the thing this day."

Amen.