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Coming to Christ—what does it mean??

"Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life." John 5: 40.

Our text suggests the question, What is Coming To Christ? It is here represented as the one act that is essential to the attainment of eternal life. If we come to Him we shall have life, and if we do not we shall abide in death. In view of the issues involved, the question is urgent--What is Coming to Christ? What is expected from us, and what are we to say and do?

It is possible to come to Him as a man, and not as a Saviour. As a matter of fact, the Jews to whom He was speaking had come to Him personally. As His fame spread, multitudes attended on His ministry, and at His last Passover, Jerusalem was crowded in the expectation that He would be there; yet comparatively few of them came to Him that they might have life. Judas never did, though he had been daily in His company for three years and more.

Coming to Christ is the movement of the heart towards Him, in earnest and devout longings for the help which we so much need, and the deliverance which He alone can give--the prostration of the contrite spirit before Him, as the penitent pleads for life--the lifting up of the soul to Him in faith and hope, in the confidence that He will do all that He has promised.

Our Need -- His Grace

Our coming to Him thus is the result of the double discovery of our condition as sinners before God, and of His wondrous and perfect adaptation to be our Saviour. We see that we are lost, worthy of condemnation, and moving forward to our final doom; that He is Divinely qualified to save, clothed with office and authority; that His fulness covers every want and meets every danger, and that He is both able and willing to save all that come unto God by Him. We meditate with thankfulness and delight on the record of His life, on His benevolence, sympathy with human sorrow, and on His readiness and power to forgive sin; on the declaration more precious than gold to millions of hearts: "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out;" and on the glorious fact that no suppliant for mercy ever was rejected by Him. Thus instructed and encouraged, the heart goes out to Him, casts itself upon His compassion and sympathy, believes in Him, and finds rest and peace; we then and there commit ourselves to Him as our Saviour, and enter into a solemn covenant that we shall be His and not our own, henceforth and for ever, marching after His royal standard, taking law from His lips, and serving Him in newness of life. This is coming to Him.

Prodigal

When the prodigal found that he was about to perish of hunger in the far-off land, while in his father's house there was bread enough and to spare, and resolved to arise and go to his father and say to him, "Father I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants;" and when, acting on his resolution, he arose, and went, and was joyfully received, he is a perfect ex-



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ample of coming to Christ. He teaches the lesson that the sinner should come to Christ, just as he is, confiding in the mercy of Him who blotteth out the iniquities of His children as a cloud, and their transgressions as a thick cloud.

It will be seen that coming to Christ, believing in Him, receiving Him, and looking to Him, are with slight shades of difference the same act, each representing the essential fact of union to Christ, and resulting in salvation. "He that cometh to Me shall never hunger, and he that believeth in Me shall never thirst." "But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Coming to Christ, then, is looking to Him, receiving Him, believing on Him, trusting in Him and committing ourselves to Him.