

CHRIST ... and three steps to a golden throne
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(JOHN I : 39)

"Moreover king Solomon made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays "(1 Kings 10: 18, 19). The details of this illustrious piece of furniture suggest that it was one of the most ornate of all Solomon's possessions. The steps which led to the throne remind us of a greater ascent by which we may approach the throne of God. " Behold, a greater than Solomon is here."

Come and See . . . Conversion

The Jordan meetings of John Baptist had taken a new turn. Excitement still prevailed, but the coming of the Carpenter from Nazareth had brought added thrills to the hearts of John's disciples. Of course they adored their leader, but even the Baptist himself spoke reverently of the Newcomer. The thrilling cry, " Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world " had reverberated across the valley, and still lingered in their hearts. Who was this Jesus? What were His ambitions? Could He be the Messiah? " 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! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day." How we wish we were able to ask them a few questions! How did the Lord entertain them? What did He say and do during that day? Did they discuss the possibilities of a kingdom? Did He speak to them of God, and the hope of Israel? They were charmed by His kindly hospitality ; they heard Him ask blessing upon the meal ; His voice was sweetest music. Poor John Baptist! He had lost two of his faithful followers -they had found a new leader. John smiled. It was as he desired. His most fervent wish was to be able to introduce people to Christ.

Go and See ... Consecration

The day was far spent, and shadows were gathering everywhere. The stars played hide and seek in the sky as the quiet hush of evening descended upon the countryside. Reluctant to leave the great Teacher, the crowd still lingered in His presence. Then the disciples said, " This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. He answered and said, Give ye them to eat. . . . How many loaves have ye? Go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes " (Mark 6: 35-38). The Master blessed the meagre supplies given freely by a small boy, and the wonder of His deed has thrilled a world. Little is much when God is in it, and impossibilities cease to exist when Christ reaches forth His hands. Thousands of people should have been grateful to the child, for his act of consecration supplied all their requirements. The lad became the world's tutor ; his example became a standard by which all may judge themselves. What can I bring to Christ? What measure of sacrifice may be found in my giving? My money in Christ's hand

CHRIST ... and three steps to a golden throne might evangelize a million ; my talents in Christ's hand might thrill a multitude ; my unreserved and unhindered willingness to assist in the work of reaching a hungry world, might delight the heart of God.

O Taste and See ... Communion

David sat in the mouth of the cave, and recalled his amazing escape from assassination. Truly the Lord had been gracious to him, and all nature harmonized with the deep appreciation of his soul. The rustle of the leaves in the trees was a prelude to a symphony of praise; the wild flowers smiled from their green carpet, and all nature rejoiced. How easy it was to pray; to thank God for unfailing kindness. " O taste and see," cried the psalmist, " that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psa. 34: 8). David had climbed the steps to the throne of God, where he listened to the songs of the eternal. He listened to the strains of infinite loveliness ; but when he repeated them, men called him " the sweet singer of Israel." Thus did a king commune with God. Happy is that man who visits Christ and learns to love Him ; happier still is that man who desires to help Him in the great work of satisfying the hungry ; but happiest of all is that soul who climbs the steps to the throne of God, to sit and commune with his Maker.

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