

# WORK

**TEXT.**— "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."—John 9:4.

## INTRODUCTION:

Most people have an ambition for fame or wealth. Jesus sought neither. The miracles he wrought were great enough to make him famous. Had he charged a price proportionate to the charges of physicians and surgeons of to-day, he could have become the wealthiest man of his day. But his life was obscure, and he charged those who received the benefits of his kindness and power to "tell no man."

He came to work. The keynote of his blessed life is found in our text. Not only was he willing to work, but he sought that work to do it. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." It is a blessed thought to all who have to labor that our Lord was a workman: From that day in the temple when he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" as we follow his footsteps along the sands of Galilee, up and down the fertile valley of the Jordan, across Judean plains, or through sunny Samaria, we find him 'never idle. He went about doing good. I would have you note carefully the words of this text. Let us take into account

1. *The personality of the demand.* "I must work." Jesus realized that he had a work to do that no one else could do. Even so every one has a work none else can do for him. I have one life to live, one character to build, one record to make, one account to render. No one can take my place in these matters. No matter how small the duty, it must be done.

2. *Note the necessity of the work.* "I must work." It is imperative. Christ's work was before him, and he could not and would not shirk it. He was always ready to do "the will of the Father." A like readiness to obey, to do with our might what our hands find to do; will make of us workmen who need not to be ashamed.

3. *A specific work.* "The words of him that sent me." He says he came "not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me." He came to "manifest the Father," to "fulfil all righteousness," to call sinners to repentance, to redeem a lost world, to show us the Father, and to provide the abundant life. When Jesus opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, fed the multitudes, raised the dead, etc., he was doing the works of him that sent him—God's work.

4. *A specific time for the work.* "While it is day." While Christ was among men he said, "I am the light of the world." The coming of the "Sun of righteousness" brought the daylight of the world's history. Jesus turns darkness into bright and glorious sunlight. When our Lord uttered the words of our text, he knew that night was coming soon; he knew that not far away was the darkness of Gethsemane and Calvary. He knew that every moment was precious, and should be

improved for the sake of others. So ought we to be busy doing the work our God would have us do each day. "To-day is the day of salvation." "Ye know not what shall be on the morrow." Why make excuse? Let us do with our might what our hands find to do. "Whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." The fields are white. The laborers are few. Let every Christian adopt as his personal motto the words spoken by our Lord: "I must work the works of him that sent me, for the night cometh when no man can work."

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