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SERMON VII.

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WOMAN'S WORK IN TIME OF WAR.

"SHE hath done what she could."—MARK xiv : 8.

AN enviable immortality is accorded to Mary of Bethany, not only in the world of glory, but here on the earth. Hers is an honored name; has been for nearly 2,000 years, and will be until the day of doom. A place is given her in the sacred record; and wherever the scriptures go, her name and her labor of love will be had in remembrance; "Verily I say unto you, whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she has done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." So spake the Redeemer of men; and wonderfully, to the present time, has the prediction been fulfilled. While, of the gay and the great, the proud and the pampered, daughters of wealth and fashion, who were flattered and courted, admired and idolized, at Jerusalem and Damascus, at Antioch and Alexandria, at Corinth; at Ephesus and at Rome, the very names, with but rare exceptions, have utterly perished, the name of this humble and obscure maiden of the village of

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SERMON IX.

JOY IN HEAVEN OVER REPENTING SINNERS.

A SHORT SERMON.

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." LUKE XV: 10.

THE creation of a world is a great event. When the wonderful formation of our world was completed, the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

The conversion of a sinner is a great event. It is the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit. When such an event takes place, there is joy in heaven among the angels; there ought to be also great joy among the saints and children of God on earth. The text occurs in the beautiful parable of the lost sheep, in which the shepherd manifests his joy at having found the one that was lost. This illustrates the joy of heaven, among the angels when a lost sinner has been found by the Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save those who were lost.

This suggests the interesting inquiry:

Why does the repentance of a sinner occasion such rejoicing in heaven? Because,

1. It honors the Divine law and government. The repentance of the sinner proclaims to the universe "God's law is good; his government is just and wise; as long as I was in rebellion I was in the wrong." Whenever the tidings of this repentance come, a new tribute of respect is paid to the authority of God.

2. Because it illustrates the mercy and truth of God in Jesus Christ. Exhibition is therein made of the glorious designs contemplated in the covenant of redemption, and an earnest afforded that "Christ shall yet see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied," and that all the promises of the Father to his Son shall attain their complete fulfillment.

3. The repentance of a sinner occasions joy in heaven, because it displays the power of the Holy Ghost. The third person in the Godhead has equal honor with the Father in the presence of the angels. His influences are ever hallowed in the estimate of heavenly beings, and to their power are ascribed all the peace, and love, and joy which fill the ransomed soul, and every tear of penitence on earth bears new witness to the all-conquering energy of the Spirit.

4. The repentance of a sinner occasions joy in heaven, because honor is thus done to the gospel of the grace of God. This was given by inspiration of God—the divinely appointed means of light and life to a ruined world, the only charter of man's inheritance of the blessedness purchased for him in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This truth, illustrated and enforced by the Holy Ghost, aroused the conscience and sanctified the heart.

5. The repentance of a sinner occasions joy in heaven, because it lessens the number of the army of revolt. There is one heart less to pour out evil affections, one mind less to conceive iniquity, one tongue less to utter perverseness. Shame and defeat are carried into the phalanx of the enemy. Satan and evil men are disappointed by the loss of one upon whose sympathy and co-operation they had relied.

6. There is a lost and miserable soul recovered and made happy. The sympathies of heaven are kindled into fresh and powerful action when a ruined creature becomes the inheritor of such unspeakable blessedness as awaits the children of God.

7. A foundation is laid, moreover, for an endless series of holy exertion. The converted sinner becomes at once the minister of good to some other soul, and that soul in turn to others still, and eternity only can reveal the results of this glorious chain, thus created for the transmission of holy influence.

REMARKS.

1. How hard must that heart be which does not take pleasure in the repentance of a sinner! Such an one could not live in heaven, where there is always rejoicing over such an event.

2. He who takes no pleasure in the repentance of a sinner, must in the sight of heaven be regarded as in league with the power of darkness. He has no sympathies in common with holy beings.

3. How precious in the view of angels must be a revival of religion. If the repentance of one sinner occasions joy, how great must be their joy when hundreds turn to God.

4. The sinner has presented to him a new motive for repentance. If he will but repent, he can make angels happy. The purest and the noblest in the universe are ready to welcome and encourage him, as they strike their harps anew and sing the song of redeeming love.

5. The impenitent heart must be a dark spot in the creation of God. Angels would not contemplate the change with such delight, were it not that the unsanctified heart is to them the most loathsome object upon which they can look.

6. This subject must rebuke the cold and unbelieving spirit of those professors of religion who hardly know whether the

conversion of sinners would give them joy. It would seem a matter of doubt whether there are not some in the church who will feel but little sympathy with the hundred and forty and four thousand who will be gathered together at the marriage supper of the Lamb; and whether they will have any heart to add their cordial, Amen, to those ascriptions of praise which shall ascend to Him that sitteth on the throne.

7. Christians then should be making every possible exertion to persuade sinners to repent. If the repentance of a sinner is the pleasure of God and the pleasure of angels, it should surely be the delight of the Christian.

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THE FULTON STREET PRAYER-MEETING.

A perpetual stream of prayer and blessing seem to flow from this consecrated and memorable spot. The promises of God seem to be verified that he will hear and answer the prayers of his people in a wonderful manner. The interest in the Fulton Street prayer-meeting seems to continue with no marked abatement through all the seasons, from one year to another. A feeling seems widely to prevail that all requests for prayer sent up to this meeting will be answered. An unusual and increased number of such requests have come up lately. The leader of the meeting remarked: "The great numbers of requests for prayer, coming from all parts of the country and even from the army, are proofs of the greatly awakened interest in the Christian heart all the land over. I can sympathize with this request which asks for

prayer for the last of five sons, for I have had a brother converted who was the last of five sons; and this very morning, for the first time in all his life, I heard his voice in prayer—leading the family in our devotions. You may rest assured it was a melting time."

A young man, a mere youth, rises and says: "I have been converted in answer to prayer, and to-morrow I expect to sail to join the Southern army.

I am wedded to this place as the spot where God had mercy on my soul. Oh! how precious it is to me. I mean to speak for Jesus. I mean to be faithful. Something seems to tell me I shall never be in this meeting again. If never here again, I shall meet you in heaven. All is well with me. I have no will of my own. Pray for me."

A letter was read to the Fulton Street Prayer-Meeting, re-