

Mark "And they all forsook Him, and fled."

14:50

14:43+

These words describe the conduct of the very same men, whom <sup>of</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>it had not long before had been</sup> last Sabbath's text, <sup>it was said:</sup> "they forsook all and followed Him." | Now, <sup>these,</sup> ~~they~~ all, forsake Him. | The circumstances were, indeed, remarkable: so remarkable that Christ even wished to have them <sup>to</sup> leave Him. | He was being arrested by the multitude that broke in upon Him, <sup>and His disciples</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>dark</sup> the hour of His betrayal, ~~to carry Him to trial and to death.~~ | But He would not have the disciples arrested, too; and so, giving Himself into the hands of His enemies He said to their leaders: "Ye seek me: <sup>Jesus of Nazareth: I am He</sup> ~~here I am~~:" let these go their way." | They could follow Him no further: they could not share with Him the crucifixion: He must now be alone in every sense of the word. | The sword that was falling upon the Shepherd was not for the sheep. Let them escape.

All former items of fluid

Wilm<sup>m</sup> = 1883

Richmond 2<sup>nd</sup> Ch. Dr. Hayes  
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And escape they did: every <sup>man</sup> ~~one~~ of them making his favored way to a place of security as best he could ~~found~~ <sup>favored</sup> by the covering and concealing night: only one stopping long enough to strike a <sup>wild and useless</sup> blow for the Master's rescue: a blow which was itself rebuffed, and the wound it made instantly healed by a miracle of love. | But

But, although Christ desired <sup>their escape, it was not</sup> to have ~~none involved~~ <sup>because</sup> of this desire that none of them continued with Him. They deserted Him <sup>by choice</sup> ~~of their own accord~~. | They <sup>now</sup> as freely "forsook" their Lord, <sup>at their own bidding</sup> as, before, they had forsaken their <sup>all, at His bidding</sup> ~~hindrances to follow Him~~: and, for a time, as completely. | They did not wait to be told to go: they turned about and "fled". | They did not have to be informed that they were no longer wanted - that their former service could be of no further use. | Their flight was <sup>the promptness</sup> ~~prompt~~ of their own hearts. | The wings that gave speed

to their feet <sup>the ready</sup> were <sup>a</sup> wings of genuine willingness. | They  
 went; for the simple reason that they did not care  
 to stay. | They had changed their minds. | To this con-  
 clusion the <sup>wording</sup> ~~tenor~~ of the text inevitably leads us. | But,  
 if ~~there~~ <sup>additional</sup> proof were needed, it is found in the study  
 of Peter's sad case, who, that very night, took all pains  
 to show his defection in a manner as decisive  
 as it was daring and dastardly. | The others did  
 not go so far as he in this meanness; but they were  
 all of one sort. | "They all forsook Him and fled."  
 [ <sup>however,</sup> Are we <sup>to</sup> argue from this fact, that these men  
 were insincere, when, <sup>2 or 3 yrs. before,</sup> ~~they first~~ they forsook  
 all to follow <sup>him whom they now forsake?</sup> their Lord? | <sup>No.</sup> There never were men  
more sincere, since the world began. | They were  
 as honest as <sup>a straight forward</sup> ~~straight forwardness~~ of character  
 could make them. | They certainly were not playing

a part. | They were too candid and open <sup>to</sup> admit of  
 such a supposition. | The breezes that ~~used to fan~~ <sup>fanned</sup>  
 their lake were not fiercer of poison than their minds  
 were of policy. | Much converse with nature is apt  
 to make one frank and artless - and these men were the  
 very children of nature. | <sup>Perishes,</sup> Their souls were too big <sup>for</sup> to  
<sup>the indul-</sup> ~~deceit, which loves to dwell with souls that are~~ <sup>behold</sup>  
<sup>gence of</sup> ~~falseness of any kind to live long upon their large~~  
~~but small, to find any counterpane there: or to find~~  
~~it long.~~ They <sup>had</sup> ~~was,~~ however, <sup>a weakness</sup> ~~and was~~ they indulged  
 which <sup>has spoiled</sup> ~~would warp~~ the character of <sup>many a</sup> ~~any~~ man <sup>as</sup> ~~unless~~  
 otherwise great and good: an ill-regulated, <sup>self-seeking</sup> ~~ambitious~~.  
 Not at once did this <sup>blotch</sup> ~~blot~~ appear; but when it  
 - like a galloping cancer -  
 did, it spread <sup>fast and far.</sup> | In the outset of  
 their new career, <sup>it would seem that</sup> ~~as was,~~ they were content to love  
 of their thoughts <sup>a personal</sup>  
 their Master, with <sup>an</sup> affection which asked for  
 no return save the <sup>satisfaction of being with its object</sup> ~~happiness of its own~~

- an affection which, in fact, never <sup>ceased</sup> ~~grew~~ to be strong  
 even down to the hour of their desertion. [But, after  
 awhile - when they saw how <sup>powerful</sup> ~~mighty~~ their God was  
 - how wise, too - how <sup>from the cloud of</sup> ~~underneath~~ His humility, there  
 occasionally shot out rays of a royalty which gave  
<sup>proof</sup> promise of His being superior <sup>even</sup> to David and <sup>of His</sup> ~~which~~  
~~gave~~ <sup>becoming</sup> ~~hope of an empire~~ <sup>greater</sup> ~~than~~ <sup>himself</sup> ever Solomon <sup>had been</sup> - and  
 when He himself bade them look for a kingdom  
 which, ~~He said, He~~ <sup>(He gave them to understand,</sup>  
~~mightier~~ <sup>was actually preparing,</sup> the like of which  
 their fathers <sup>the old-time</sup> Israel had not known, even when <sup>of their</sup> ~~Israel's~~ glory was  
<sup>country was</sup> ~~blazing~~ <sup>in</sup> at its highest flame, <sup>then</sup> these men felt flut-  
 tering in their hearts the birth-throes of a double  
 hope: the patriot's hope of a restored national <sup>renown</sup>,  
<sup>and renown</sup> ~~digity~~: the personal hope of a lofty place ~~for~~  
 themselves in <sup>that</sup> the coming empire which was <sup>again</sup> to lift  
 Israel to the very top of this world. ~~If you will~~

Study with care the N. T. narrative, you will find two things more and more <sup>emerging</sup> plainly appearing - at intervals longer or shorter - the one, surprise at its continual

postponement of <sup>His coronation-day</sup> ~~their expectations~~ <sup>a corresponding</sup> ~~the other, disappointment~~ <sup>of desires <sup>on their</sup> for His dear sake + that of their country men</sup> ~~for they were expected to become His ministers of state.~~ <sup>ment on their own account.</sup> // And then, when

at last, their <sup>cherished</sup> ~~entire~~ hopes sank <sup>suddenly</sup> ~~off~~ of sight in the <sup>mystery</sup> darkness <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ final arrest of their King, who <sup>most bewilderingly</sup> ~~sub-~~mitted to be bound, and <sup>consented</sup> ~~to~~ be led away to <sup>trial and to</sup> death

- they gave the whole matter up as a miserable failure, <sup>"who ever thought it would come to this"</sup>

And, hence, "they <sup>all</sup> forsook Him and fled" - believing that there was now nothing left to them except flight.

Later, indeed - they <sup>were made to see</sup> ~~saw~~ things in a far different light.

Later, they came to apprehend the <sup>- the more glorious - i.e. the spiritual -</sup> true nature of the

Kingdom of which so much had been spoken and so little had been understood - <sup>and then they returned</sup> ~~that it was, verily,~~ to their allegiance, never again to shame it. ~~the Kingdom such as earth had never before had~~ <sup>got</sup>

7  
I once knew a man in whose experience  
this peace was beautifully exemplified.  
He had passed the noon of his earthly  
life, and the western sun had begun  
to throw its soft light upon the evening  
of his days - yet he seemed to have  
no sense of weariness from having  
long carried his burden of years.  
Winter was upon his head, but spring  
was in his heart. His look was se-  
-rious, as of one who had known  
trouble, but it was at the same  
time serene, as of one whom trouble  
had not soured. He appeared ~~like~~  
to be always at prayer, yet prayer  
was with him an exercise akin to  
praise. He labored for XL with an  
assiduity that knew no fatigue, ~~even~~  
~~with an elasticity that knew no re-~~  
-laxation. Religion was his business, but  
religion was also his relaxation. The  
Bible was his study, but it was also  
his delight. His mind was, indeed,



seldom lifted into spiritual ecstasy,  
but was all the while upon that  
elevated ridge where godliness,  
in its sober walks and high out-  
looks, is permitted to breathe ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>  
air of perpetual peace, ~~which is~~  
~~far better than any gleams of oc-~~  
~~casional joy.~~ Many of his days  
were, like the days of other men,  
clouded by care and severe with  
needed discipline - but, his soul, an-  
chored above and holding fast  
to that wh. is within the veil, shook  
off betimes every temptation to mur-  
mur; and, whilst keenly feeling  
each shock of trial, felt, still more  
keenly, its necessity and its value.  
Like all other mortals, he had to  
drink his appointed cup of tears,  
but, tasting in each drop the sweetness  
of his Father's love, was content and  
happy. He actually felt beneath  
his feet the rock on which ~~---~~

which his new and completing man-  
-hood was built - and on which it  
rested secure - the rock composed  
of God's well-tried promises - The rock  
~~of Ages~~ against which the storms  
of life, - whether raised by indwelling  
sins, or blown by Satan's malice,  
or directed by the masked love of  
heaven's rod - beat in vain, is only  
to establish it the more firmly.

Mark this perfect man - behold  
this upright saint - for the end  
of all such is peace: after life's  
trials are over - its burdens all laid  
down from off the tired shoulders,  
- its darkness all fleeing away at  
the bright approach of the ~~day~~  
of eternity.

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