The Pulpit

A SERMON BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON

Subject: The Son of God.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church on the theme "The Son of God," the Rev. Ira Wemmell Henderson, pastor took as his text 14 Matt. 33, "Of a truth Thou art the Son of God." He said:

In this expression of the faith of the boatmen in the Christ as the Son of God we have the consensus of a host of men and women who, for nineteen centuries, have followed the gentle Galilean. The disciples proclaimed their faith in the reality of the Sonship of Jesus after a visible, external, objective exhibition of His power. In ages past, however, many a song-sung martyr and many an unknown saint has held firm to the same faith, seeing only with the spiritual eye. And to-day every sincere follower of our Lord acknowledges, with a joy that passes all human understanding, "of a truth Thou art the Son of God." From the fullness of a rich and enriching spiritual experience do we, here and now, reiterate our belief in the supreme divine Sonship of our Savior and our Lord.

Jesus of Nazareth—the place from which nothing good was held to come—the Messiah of the chosen people of God, proclaimed by angels, adored by the wisdom of the East; youthful confounder of priests and prelates. He it is of whom the apostle writes. Jesus—the man of parables and of miracles; Jesus, the expounder of those wonderfully well-put doctrines contained in the Sermon on the Mount; Jesus the Christ, the King of Israel, the Savior of the world. He is the divine human of whom the disciples said: "Of a truth Thou art the Son of God."

Let us look for a moment into the claims of this Man, this despised Nazarene, this carpenter's son, to the title and to the office of the Son of God. Has He any claim that we are bound to respect? Is there any reason why we are called upon to serve Him, shall we believe upon Him, or shall we reject Him. What, in the last analysis, is the proof that is final that Jesus is divine.

If you will glance through those pages of the Old Testament which give the history of the life and of the hopes of the ancient Jewish people, you will find that, running through them all, the coming of a Messiah—that is to say, a Savior—is prophesied. To His people God has promised a King who shall give to them eternal power and an endless peace. Step by step, incident by incident, is unfolded in the old prophetic books the coming of a Christ.

Thus we see that the Man who is to be the Son of God, the Messiah of the Jews, the King of Israel must be a man who measures to the standards of the God-given prophecies of the centuries.

So much for the historic demands upon the claims of the Messiah. No less imperative, however, is the need that the Man who is to be the Son of God and the Savior of the race shall be such a revelation of God as our hearts demand. You and I cannot trust in the Son of God save as He meets the requirements of our reasoning faculties and highest sense. The Christ must not only be a God-declared Messiah, but also a self-proven incarnation of Almighty God. He must not only bear divine letters of recommendation to us, but also convince us by a living divinity that He is what He claims to be. And above all the truths of His messages must be proven practical forces in our own lives ere we can believe.

Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Messiah of the Jews, the King of Israel. As we have seen the man who is these must measure true to the standards of the God-given prophecies of the centuries. Jesus so measures. Throughout the whole of the New Testament the revelation of Christ as the fulfillment of prophecy is set forth. He is the Messiah. He is the King whom God has promised to His people Israel. He is the Son of David for whom the holy men of many generations yearned. Christ satisfies all the demands of the Old Testament prophetic writers. From that standpoint He is the Son of God and Savior. But whether or no there had been given prophecies aforetime, there are grander and more glorious reasons for faith in Christ as the Son of God. Christ is such a revelation of God as our hearts demand. For as we read the story of His life we see manifold instances of His divine power, purity and perfectness. Time and again we see His godhood and divinity in His workings and His words. He is the fullness of grace and truth. Yes, my friends, in His miracles and His messages, in His acts of love and His conscience-touching truths, this man of sorrows and of griefs reveals His Sonship divine. The power of God shows through His physical miracles, the love of the Father shines through the spiritual transformations that He wrought. From what other lips do we hear such deep, such soul-satisfying promises and commands. Nowhere in the history of all the world has there been another such a man. Mohamet, Confucius, Buddha—the ethical and philosophical teachers of all peoples and of every age—are incomparable with that personal, sanctifying Savior of the Christian soul, whose name is Light and Love.

But Jesus not only meets demands as a revelator, He is also assured of our confidence through the fact that His words and His life are in harmony. Jesus not only revealed by word the sort of God for whom inwardly we yearn, but He also exemplified in His life the fullness of truth which He preached. Telling of the love that crowns the character of God He was lovely. Preaching the essential spiritual nature of the Father He was Himself spiritually controlled. Telling men that the truth of God and Jehovah Himself were to be spiritually apprehended and discerned Jesus walked and talked with God. Preaching the Kingdom of Heaven as love, peace, joy, purity of life, the Savior went about loving men, seeking and pursuing peace, bringing joy into saddened souls, leading hardened hearts into purity of life. Believing that the cultivation of godliness is the business of mankind Jesus was holy, upright, godly Himself. And it is because He not only preached truth unto life eternal but lived also the life that shall gain and keep the crown of rejoicing that we hail Him Lord.

History makes Jesus the Son of God. His clear-cut, reasonable revelation of the character of God by words so declares Him; His consistent practical revelation of divinity in His daily life marks Him as God's Son. And yet it is not until we have taken His truth into our hearts, and proven the richness and practicability of His theories in our own lives that we can yield to Him the adoration that is due Him. The application by a normal man to his own life in true fashion of the truths of Jesus Christ will prove them to be mighty unto upliftment and enlightenment and practical principles that shall make for good when practically used in life. The truth of Christ will be found so full of divine inspiration and revelation, and the life of the man who revealed it will then be found to be so godly that the human heart will hail the great revealer Son of God. Jesus Christ cannot be understood save by those who have entered into that manner of spiritual life that shall open their eyes unto the divine wonders of His life. No man can enter into the fullness of the truths revealed in the messages of the Master save as he stands ready to be born again and move ahead in the spiritual life. The disciples did not glory in the divine Sonship of Jesus until they had had their eyes opened in part to the spiritual mysteries which underlay the objective miracles that Jesus wrought. We know how slow they were to see the depth and the application of His principles as He preached to them the truth. And yet with them as with us the secret of their faith in the Master lay in the fact that there was no discord between the truth that He preached and the life that He lived. They waited the long-promised Messiah from God who should deliver Israel; they gave Jesus a hearing as a self-styled and heaven-proclaimed Christ; they heard the music of heavenly truth in all He said, and above all they marked the fact that He not only talked divinely well, but lived even as God would live. And so they followed Him. But they were not able to have confidence in Him that should enable them to bear witness of His divine power until they had tried for themselves the sort of life He lived and applied for themselves to their own lives the eternal principles that He propounded and found them practical.

Men say to me, "I do not believe Jesus was the Son of God," "I cannot accept Him as the incarnation of the Father." And my first question is whether or no they are fully competent to judge. Are they in possession of such spiritual experience as will enable them to pass good judgment upon the case in hand? Many a man who has no experience in the Christ life will without a blush reject all the truths so dear to Christian hearts. If I as a minister presumed to pass expert judgment upon astronomical truth, having never even seen or marked the coursings of the stars or gained experimental knowledge of the wonders of the heaven above us, you would hoot me from this church. Yet many a man with no Christian experience at all will pass final and irrevocable judgment upon Jesus Christ without so much as a shred of personal testimony that could be worthy of notice.

Jesus is the Son of God. And the only way you can come to know that is through the spiritual, personal experience of the fact. Jesus is the Savior of our souls from sin and the only means to a convincing knowledge of this truth is through the entrance of the saving truth of Jesus Christ into your life. Jesus revealing the truth, you testing, trying, proving its reliability and reasonableness in your own personal life.

Life's Every Day Crosses.

Life is not entirely made up of great evils or heavy trials; but the perpetual recurrence of petty evils and small trials in the ordinary and appointed exercises of the Christian graces.

To bear with the failings of those about us—with their infirmities, their bad judgment, their ill-breeding, their perverse tempers; to endure neglect when we feel we deserve attention, and ingratitude when we expected thanks; to bear with the company of disagreeable people whom Providence has placed in our way, and whom He has provided, or purposed for the trial of our virtue; these are best exercises of patience and self-denial, and the better because not chosen by ourselves.

To bear with vexation in business, with disappointment in our expectations, with interruptions of our retirement, with folly, instruction, disturbance—in short, with whatever opposes our will, contradicts our humor—this habitual acquiescence appears to be more of the essence of self-denial than any little rigors or inflictions of our own imposing.

These constant, inevitable, but inferior evils, properly improved, furnish a good moral discipline, and might, in the days of ignorance, have superceded pilgrimage and penance. —Hannah Moore.

What is Worth Coveting.

It requires a well kept life to do the will of God, and even a better kept life to will to do His will. To be willing is a rarer grace than to be doing the will of God. For he who is willing may sometimes have nothing to do, and must only be willing to wait; and it is easier far to be doing God's will than to be willing to have nothing to do—it is easier far to be working for Christ than it is to be willing to cease. No, there is nothing rarer in the world to-day than the truly willing soul, and there is nothing more worth coveting than the will to will God's will. There is no grander possession for any Christian life than the transparently simple mechanism of a sincerely obeying heart.—Professor Drummond.

True Prayer is a Great Achievement.

Believe me, to pray with all your heart and strength, with the reason and the will, to believe vividly that God will listen to your voice through Christ and verily do the thing He pleaseth thereupon—that is the last, the greatest achievement of the Christian's warfare on earth. Teach us to pray, O Lord!—Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Character Alone Endures.

Nothing is eternal but that which is done for God and for others. That which is done for self dies. Perhaps it is not wrong, but it perishes. You say it is pleasure—well, enjoy it. But joyous recollection is no longer joy. That which ends in self is mortal. That alone which goes out of self into God lasts forever.—Frederick W. Robertson.

Be Appreciative.

Seek to cultivate a buoyant, joyous sense of the crowded kindnesses of God in your daily life.—Alexander MacLaren.

A Poor Reward.

A Christian citizen who sacrifices his convictions for a small and dirty victory, advertises a pusillanimous Christ.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

New York City.—The tailored jacket is always in style, always smart and always fills a certain distinctive place that is its own. Illustrated is one that allows a choice of the long or three-quarter sleeves and that includes the seams to the shoulders that give such long and becoming lines to the figure. As illustrated it is made of tan colored Panama cloth simply stitched with belding silk, but it is appropriate for all

suitings and all materials used for separate coats, so that it fills a great many needs.

The coat is made with fronts and side-fronts, backs and side-backs and under-arm gores. There are pockets on the hips with deep laps and the neck is finished with a regulation collar and lapels. The sleeves are made

in two pieces each with roll-over cuffs for the long sleeves, while the three-quarter ones are stitched to simulate cuffs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four and one-half yards twenty-seven, two and three-fourth yards forty-four or two and one-half yards fifty-two inches wide.

The Stout and Slender.

Nothing is prettier and more becoming to a fair, slight woman, with a pretty complexion than white; but white gowns must be carefully avoided by her sister of too ample charms. Black is the color for the stout woman, especially if she be of the black-eyed and black-haired type. A black gown will make her look slighter than anything else, while pale blue, light grey and nearly every shade of red will make her "too, too solid flesh" most undesirably self-assertive. A subdued shade of blue, heliotrope and olive green, with black, may be all advantageously worn by the stout woman.

Painted Chiffon Frocks.

Painted chiffon plays a large part in the afternoon frocks, and a beauty is of white striped ninon made over pale blue, the deep flounce of black glace at the foot looping in tabs over a fulness of cornflower chine chiffon to match the bolero effect of the bodice, folds of blue and lime piping the lace vest ornamented with tiny lime-colored true lover's knots.

Separate Wraps Plentiful.

It seems that there never were so many entrancing separate wraps as now. They are of every imaginable material, from lace, silk and velvet to heavy English tweeds and Scotch mixtures; and all seem necessary to the perfectly equipped wardrobe—the frivolous lace garments, long and short, having nearly as large a following as storm coats and carriage wraps.

High Luster Silk.

Paillette de soie is a silk with a high luster that is used for both day and evening gowns.

Cluny Lace Returned.

Women with Cluny lace waists will rejoice to know that they have returned, after only a year or so of absence, to modishness. They are desirable from many standpoints—durability, becomingness and warmth.

Tailor-Made Skirts.

Without exception the skirts which are worn with bodice coats are strictly tailor-made. They may be fashioned with tucks innumerable, or they may be strapped, banded or otherwise trimmed, but over all there will be the tailor finish, which, contrasting with coat, gives it the required "new" appearance. This effect is gained in many ways, and its popularity is bound to give the pleated skirt not only a new lease of life, but a stronger vogue that it enjoyed even at the beginning of its reign.

Over Blouse or Jumper.

Seldom has any fashion taken so firm a hold upon feminine fancy as has the one of the over waist. Each new variation seems a bit more attractive than the last and there is genuine enthusiasm felt for each new design. Here is one that is both novel and charming and that is adapted to almost every seasonable material. In the illustration it is made of old apricot Liberty satin trimmed with velvet of the same color and bands of the material and brilliant jeweled buttons, but wool is quite as desirable as silk, linen and all the pretty cotton stuffs are charming so made, while it would be difficult to find any better design for the favorite three-piece costume that is made with skirt and over waist and little jacket to match. The trimming is distinctly novel and effective, but is not obligatory, and anything that may be preferred can be substituted. Applique would be handsome, silk embroidered with soutache braid is always effective and there are also numberless bandings ready to be sewed into place.

The waist is made with fronts and backs and sleeves. Both the fronts and the backs are tucked at the shoulders, and the closing is made invisibly at the back. The fronts are held together by straps on which the little bows are arranged and the sleeves are in bell, or kimono, shape. In this instance the waist is cut out in sections and velvet is applied under the edge and is finished with soutache braid within all edges.

The quantity of material required

for the medium size is two and one-fourth yards twenty-one, one and seven-eighth yards thirty-two or one and one-fourth yards forty-four inches wide, with five yards of velvet to make as illustrated.

Some Animals.

A spinster with money to burn recently paid $5000 for a bulldog. A man in Massachusetts has just bought a cow for $8000. Walter Garvey has a hog for which he refused a cash offer of $4000. James Keene refused $200,000 for Sysonby, a racehorse. There are several roosters of fashionable blood priced as high as $800 each. You can buy a fine lion for $300 and a tiger for $700. By and by we shall have a craze for breeding fishes, and a fine male salmon, educated to pond life, might be worth $1000. The $8000 cow has one calf a year, worth $4,000. The female salmon may become the mother of 300,000 little fellows in the same time, worth in the aggregate, possibly, as much as the calf.—New York Press.

Verily Thick Headed.

At the Thames Court a man who stated he did not know his name was charged with maliciously smashing a plate glass window, valued at £3 10s, belonging to Costin Peterson, licensee of the Alma Public House, West India Dock Road. At 12.45 o'clock on Friday night the defendant went up to a constable and said: "Lock me up, boss." He then went up to the window, took off his hat, and deliberately butted the window completely out. His head was not cut. When taken into custody he said, "I will smash all the blessed lot in when I come out."—London Globe.

One test for distinguishing diamonds from glass and paste is to touch them with the tongue. The diamond feels much the colder.

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TRUTH AND QUALITY

appeal to the Well-Informed in every walk of life and are essential to permanent success and creditable standing, therefore we wish to call the attention of all who would enjoy good health, with its blessings, to the fact that it involves the question of right living with all the term implies. With proper knowledge of what is best each hour of recreation, of enjoyment, of contemplation and of effort may be made to contribute to that end and the use of medicines dispensed with generally to great advantage, but as in many instances a simple, wholesome remedy may be invaluable if taken at the proper time, the California Fig Syrup Co. feels that it is alike important to present truthfully the subject and to supply the one perfect laxative remedy which has won the appoval of physicians and the world-wide acceptance of the Well-Informed because of the excellence of the combination, known to all, and the original method of manufacture, which is known to the California Fig Syrup Co. only.

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Hot Sea Baths.

Salt water, so strengthening ordinarily, is most weakening when too warm. On most ocean boats there is an abundance of warm water in the bath rooms, and the daily salt bath is a great tonic, but beware of getting it too hot. It will turn you faint if you do, even if you are accustomed to an equally high temperature in fresh water at home.—Travel Magazine.

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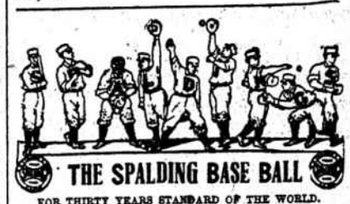

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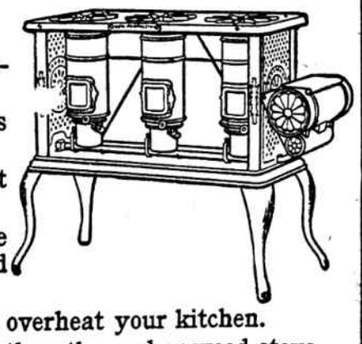

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