

## FAIREST OF ALL

"Who is like unto Thee, O Lord?" Exodus 15:11

The world sadly undervalues the Lord Jesus Christ, as may be gathered from the action of Judas Iscariot, who sold his Master for thirty pieces of silver, which was the market price of a common slave. There are two passages of Scripture, however, which depict the value of Him whose price is "above rubies." The Israelites persuaded David not to go out into the battle by saying, "Thou art worth ten thousand of us." (II Samuel 18:3). In answer to the question of the daughters of Jerusalem, the Bride replied, "My Beloved is the chiefest among ten thousand." (Song of Solomon 5:10).

The first passage extols David's worth. David is one of the most magnificent characters in Holy Writ. The stories of his career never lose their charm or grip for the young or the old. But as the Bible is true to life, it tells the truth about each life. It portrays the defects as well as the glories of a reign like David's. In its pages we find him suffering the consequences of his terrible sin. In fleeing from Absalom, he was but reaping what he had sown. II Samuel 18:3 reveals the love and loyalty of those who followed David. To them, he was worth ten thousand of the best. There was none like him, and such admiration brought comfort to his broken heart. His followers encouraged their king to stay behind to succor, to guide, and to bless those who tarried by the staff. If he was killed in battle, then their light would be quenched. Because of his kingly qualities, his place could not be filled.

David was willing to suffer with his people. He believed that example was better than precept. A captain always inspires courage when he cries, "Follow me." He was merciful and considerate. Absalom, his wayward son, was the cause of his anguish. Absalom wanted David killed, and David wanted Absalom spared. To show you that he overcame evil with good, I merely refer you to his statement, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man."

David was loving and forgiving. He carried no desire for revenge against his rebellious son. Hear him say, "Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom." When the people saw such noble traits in the daily life of their king, what else could they say but, "Thou art worth ten thousand of us"?

The esteem in which David was held is sweetly suggestive of the Lord Jesus. This brings us to the typical features of our second verse, "My Beloved is the chiefest among ten thousand." Israel's illustrious king is an outstanding type of the King Eternal. "Who is like unto Thee, O Lord?"

Is there any connection between II Samuel 8:3 and Song of Solomon 5:10? Solomon, who wrote the latter, knew all about Israel's estimation of and admiration for his father; so he places such language in the mouth of the Bride as she extols her Beloved. Surely, saintly souls were not deluded when they discovered in such language the superior worth of our adorable Lord. Truly, He is the fairest of all.

### I. Christ Is Holier In Birth.

Although he condescended to become the Man, Christ Jesus, let it never be forgotten, never occupied our position in regard to sin. There is a great gulf between his entrance and our entrance into the world. Being conceived of the Holy Spirit, He came into humanity supernaturally. We were born in sin and shapen in iniquity.

We came into the world by way of natural generation. Not so with Christ! If He was not miraculously born, then His value is reduced. He would not be worth ten thousand of us.

## II. Christ Is Purer In Life.

Robert Murray McCheyne was one of the most saintly men of the last century. Yet his "Memoirs" are full of confessions of sins. Upon every page there is a fresh discovery of his evil heart. Subscribing to the experience of another, he could sing,

"They who fain would serve Thee best  
Are conscious most of sin within."

But no such confessions ever left the faultless lips of the Lord Jesus. Listen to His own claim, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" "The Prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me." Satan has something, however, even in the best, namely, their old nature. Christ was holy, and therefore unlike us. Think of the holiest man or woman whom you have ever seen, heard of, or read about, and then compare such a one with the unsullied life of the Lord Jesus. It will be like holding the candle to the sun, for He is unmatched and incomparable. He is worth ten thousand times ten thousand of the godliest lives that ever breathed. He is He is the purest of the mighty, and the mightiest of the pure. Samuel Rutherford said, "No pen, no word, no image can express to you the loveliness of my own, only Lord Jesus."

Yes, and it is His passion to make us like unto Himself. He greatly desires our beauty. He waits to impart His own lovely holiness. Shall we, by faith, receive it?

## III. Christ Is Firmer In Friendship.

David was willing to suffer with his loyal people; but, responding to their considerate words, he remained behind in a safe place. Christ not only said, "I will surely go forth with you myself also," but he went. He suffered Himself to be tested in all points like as we are. The beauty of His friendship is seen in that He shares all of our experiences, sin excepted. He is with us in all the conflicts of life. All of us have friends who are kind, generous, and self-sacrificing; but the Lord Jesus is worth more than ten thousand of the best friends it is possible to have. The best of earth can fail. Christ's friendship is constant. He is firm, abiding, changeless, and true in His love and sympathy. What do we know about the undying friendship of this friend "who sticketh closer than a brother"? Is He our friend?

### What A Friend

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in Prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
 Is there trouble anywhere?  
 We should never be discouraged,  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful  
 Who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
 Cumbered with a load of care?--  
 Precious Savior, still our refuge,--  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

#### IV. Christ Is Kinder In Grace.

In David's concern over Absalom, we can trace our Saviour's mercy for the wayward and rebellious. David's forgiving grace is a type of the loving kindness of the Lord Jesus. This earth possesses those who are so gracious, kind, forgiving; who bear no revenge or carry no animosity, although they are despised and rejected; but Christ exceeds and excels them all. There is no love and grace like unto His. He is peerless in the realm of mercy, pardon, and forgiveness. He is worth ten thousand in that He forgives so freely. We have reserves. If a friend grieves us, we say, "Well, I will forgive him, but--." The Lord Jesus had no "buts." The old score was not only forgiven but also forgotten. One has said, "Sinners can do nothing but make wounds that Christ may heal them; and make debts that He may pay them; and make falls that He may raise them; and make deaths that he may quicken them; and spin out and dig hells to themselves that He may ransom them."

#### V. Christ Is Greater In Sacrifice.

It was David's sorrowful lament that he was not able to die for Absalom. Although he was a warrior, he was not allowed to fight with his brave men. The marvel of the Cross is that the Lord Jesus did fight and die. He gave Himself for every rebellious Absalom, and died for every rebel of Adam's race. David stayed behind in a safe place; but the Lord Jesus came out of His ivory palaces and, at Calvary, achieved a glorious victory over sin and Satan.

Yes, and multitudes have died for Him. Think of the illustrious roll of martyrs, missionaries, and saints who have laid down their lives for His sake. Thousands are now ready to hazard their lives for Him. But His death is worth more than ten thousand thousand of such glorious deaths because of its object. He died to reconcile man to God. "He died that we might be forgiven." In the death of the brave there may be inspiration; but in the death of the Beloved, there is redemption.

#### VI. Christ Is Higher In Honor.

When we think of the most honorable of the earth, we are made to feel so humble; but where is there nobility comparable to Christ's? Is He not worth more than tens of thousands of the highest, and noblest, and best? As King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He is high over all. "Who is like unto Thee?"

To adoring hearts, the Saviour is the Star of brightest splendor. What is He worth to you? To me, He is the chiefest and fairest of all the earth. All that I am I owe to His grace and love. Our estimation of Christ can be judged by the value we place upon His friendship and by the position we give Him in our lives. He is the chiefest, but do we give Him the chief place? J. Stuart Holden tells us that Christians "are mainly divisible into three classes--those who give Him place, those who give Him prominence, and those who give Him pre-eminence."

May ours be the appropriation of His fullness, and the undying passion to give Him the place of pre-eminence in all things!