

have looked upon Him in sorrow but who have never been drawn to His feet. There is a constant danger of us having sympathy and looking upon Christ and then stopping there. Tradition tells the story of the man who used the spear inside of Christ. They said that he was a hardhearted soldier, he was a brave representative of the Roman Legion and he returned to Rome and talked to children and told them of that day. How he recalled the death of Jesus in his heart and how that he regrets in his spirit that his spear had done what he had led it to do because he remembered that Thomas thrust his fingers in this side. Also in our imagination I think of this man growing older and looking back again and again over the deeds of his younger years and thinking of the man that he helped crucify. As he looks back upon this scene I imagine the arrow of condemnation finds its place in his heart. And he declared "O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from this body of death."

We must come to know that we were a part and that the soldier pierced him representing us and again and again we pierced the heart of Christ through our disobedience, through our reckless living, and through our sinfulness. There are more ways of piercing Christ's heart than with a Roman spear. Do you ever indulge in lawlessness? Do you never harden your heart against poverty and the outcasts? Are you never

unjust and untruthful and unkind in your words and your deeds? Did you let a beggar go unfed? There are thrust which pierce the heart of Christ, your hands and mine. Have thrust the spear and as we look upon Him who we have pierced, there come mourning and penitence. But there is something more to this.

There is the look of despair they shall look upon Him whom they pierced is a prophecy which is daily being fulfilled. There is one fulfillment yet to come. The Christian teaching is that this world will come to an end some day and that though there may be crisis after crisis and God may send His judgment but there will come an end when the consummation of this age shall come to pass. Then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom of God even the Father. So shall it be in the end of the world when the Son of Man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels shall come with Him and all the nations shall be gathered and every eye shall see Him and they that pierced Him shall be there. We know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and yet it will be dreadful for some to look upon Him whom they have pierced and there will be shame and terror in their hearts. They call on the rocks to cover them as they flee out of that presence, whose love and grace make up a great part, my friends. Yet has been rejected.