

life, but never is sullied by any imperfection. There is no trace of condescension in His friendship. He rebukes the Pharisees and drives the money changers out of the temple, but no arrogance can be found in His demeanor. Everywhere He goes He shares the lives of people of all types, strengthening their weaknesses, pruning their faults, increasing their joys, lessening their sorrows. It is no wonder that the people rejoiced when He entered Jerusalem, and spread their garments before Him, doing homage to His matchless charm.

All other characters described in history or in literature have some flaw in them, but in Him there is none. Where else do we see such a combination of manliness with gentleness, of courage with humility, of forthrightness with kindness? The character described in these pages is the very flower of humanity. There is that in it which convinces every careful student that it contains what no mere human could have done. The picture is human and yet divine. He is weak and yet powerful. Without a place to lay His head He represents Himself as Lord of the universe. With no official position in the church or state of His day He speaks with authority and not like the Scribes. The combination which we find here of the God and the perfect Man, is one which no human writer could have invented. As a literary creation the picture of Jesus Christ is quite unimaginable. The greatest writers of the ages have never been able to produce such a figure. Clearly it is impossible that four comparatively obscure men should each have been able to write a Gospel which would describe such a Man were it not for the fact that they had known the very One whom they described.

Through the ages the picture of Christ in the Gospels has claimed the homage of men of every type. Even those who deny the Christian religion must perforce admit the supremacy of the character of Jesus. Rousseau said, "If the life and death of Socrates were those of a sage, the life and death of Jesus were those of a God." Renan declared that, "All the ages will proclaim that among the sons of men there is none born