

quoted probably just as much as you find it in Matthew. John gives us more of Christ's discourses and sayings. Because he is presenting Him, not merely as a King, but as God Himself. Thus it becomes him to present all of a discourse, that means so much to us, all of the words of God.

Thus we have four pictures from different angles, and I think you will get a great deal more value from them if you take each as a unit and try to get the picture of Christ that Matthew is presenting, - and the picture of Christ that Mark is presenting, and the picture of Christ that Luke is presenting, and the picture of Christ that John is presenting.

See Christ as the King, the promised One of the Old Testament. See Him as the Servant, the miracle worker. Then see Him as the perfect Man, then as God Himself. Then after going over these four pictures separately, let them fuse together forming one picture of the character of Christ.

Now there is one thing that I want to bring out that is very remarkable. One thing that is distinctive about these books, differing from any ordinary human biography. It is this. They give far more space to the last week of Christ's life and to His death, than you would expect to find in any biography of a human being. In the life of Lincoln you may find a chapter devoted to his death, but in comparison to the rest of his life, it occupies a very small space. But when we turn to the four Gospels, in Matthew, which has 28 chapters, from the 21st on, it tells of the last week, and the events leading to His death and resurrection. In Mark there are 16 chapters, and the 11th begins to tell of the last week. Luke, with 24 chapters, begins in the 19th. While John, with 21 chapters, begins just about the middle of the book. From chapter 12 we read of the events of the last week of His life. Each writer paints the picture in a different way, from a different angle, yet they unite and all of them give this great, comparatively great space to the account of the events of the last week of His life and His death.

The reason, I believe, is that the writers were more impressed. Each one, looked at this King, this servant, this perfect Man, and this perfect God, as One about whom the most important thing was not any episode of His life, but His death.

By His death, He proved Himself most thoroughly the King, the One foretold in the Old Testament, the One who fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

It was by His death and resurrection that He brought redemption, and made it possible for a human person to enter into the Kingdom of God. It was by His death that He proved Himself the most perfect man. It was by His death that He proved Himself truly God; who died that men might live. God, who loved humanity so much that He could give that which was dearest of all, to die on the cross that men might live.

When I was climbing in the Alps a few years ago, a rope was strapped around the waist of the guide and around myself, for it is possible that if one fell, the other could hold him. I noticed that this rope had a little red thread running all through it, and I asked the guide what it meant. "That red thread is put through all the best grade of English rope" the guide said, "In order to prove that it is dependable."

Turn to the Bible, in every book you will find the red thread of the prediction, or the account, or the interpretation of the death of Christ. This is the thing which shows us that we can depend on it, that we can trust our life to it. That is the most important fact in the Bible. The fact of the death of Christ for the sins of humanity. God gave Himself that sinful man might be saved, and might enter into the Kingdom of God. What matters then the little things in our lives, the comparatively trivial things which often occupy such a large share of our lives, why they slip into insignificance when we think that the Son of God died on the cross for sinful humanity.

Read each Gospel through and see the theme - the great King, the great Servant, the perfect Man, and God Himself in human flesh, and as you read, I am sure you will be impressed with the fact that throughout all the books, the death of Christ makes it possible that we shall be redeemed, and we enter the family of God. Then the little things of our human life will seem as nothing in comparison with the great things herein. In that way we can appreciate salvation. In that way we can rest on the verse - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Eternal life, which cost Him so much to prepare.