

How different was the situation of this man from that of so many of whom we read in the gospels. At various times we read of men to whom Christ said "follow me" who made all sorts of excuses to escape doing so. This man did not think of the things that would keep him back, his one desire was to follow Christ wherever he would go.

The zeal of this man is worthy of the emulation of all of us. One should follow the vision which God gives. If you are certain that it is God's will that you should witness for Him in the far corners of the earth, nothing human should be allowed to stop you. God leads us by his providence, and often He shuts the door upon plans which seem to us to be very attractive. But we should be very careful about thinking that the presence of an obstacle is necessarily a sign that God does not wish us to undertake something which we had hoped to do. I often become very impatient at the accounts of people who tell of great visions of service which have been theirs, which they have given up completely because some comparatively minor obstacle has stood in the way and they have considered this that God was shutting the door. It is not God's will that we should simply follow the path of least resistance. When Hudson Taylor felt called to carry the gospel to the interior of China the door was absolutely closed. Except for a few port towns foreigners were completely forbidden to go about in China. To carry the gospel into the interior of that great land seemed utterly hopeless. But Hudson Taylor did not say "the door is closed, it is not God's will that I should labor there." He left no stone unturned to find a way to enter the interior of China. He gathered missionaries and prepared for the great undertaking. When he was ready the door was opened and he found it possible to enter there and to begin carrying out the vision which he had had. Often obstacles are in our way to be overcome. We grow by overcoming obstacles. God allows us to struggle and work in the face of obstacles and difficulties, in order that through them He may mold us and shape us and prepare us for more effective service for Him. After we have a vision of service in some extremely difficult