**THE EXPOSITION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE BY ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

**ISAIAH-062. THE SERVANT'S OBEDIENCE by ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

*"I was not rebellious, neither turned away back."*

*Isaiah 50:5*

**I. The secret of Christ's life, filial obedience.**

The fact is attested by Scripture. By His own words: My meat is to do the will of My Father; For thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness; I came down from heaven not to do My own will. By His servant's words: Obedient unto death; Made under the law; He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. It is involved in the belief of His righteous manhood. It is essential to true manhood. The highest ideal for humanity is conscious dependence on God, and the very definition of righteousness is conscious conformity to the Will of God. If Christ had done the noblest acts and yet had not always had this sense of being a servant, He would not have been pure and holy.

It is not inconsistent with His true Divinity. We stand afar off, but we can see this much.

The completeness of that obedience. It was continuous and it was entire.

The living heart of it: I delight to do Thy Will. The Father's Will was not a force without, but Christ's whole being was conformed to it, and it was shrined within His heart and had become His choice and delight.

The expressions of His obedience were His perfect fulfilment of the divine commands, and His perfect endurance of the divine appointments.

Thus God's Will was the keynote, to which Christ's will struck the full chord.

**II. The yet deeper mysteries which that perfect obedience discloses.**

**(a)** A sinless human life must be more than human. The contrast with all which we have known--the impossibility of retaining belief in the perfect obedience of Jesus unless we have underlying it the belief in His divinity. There is none good but one, that is God.

**(b)** The sinless human life suffers not for itself but for us. The combination of holiness and sorrow leads on to the mystery of atonement. The sinlessness is indispensable to the doctrine of His sacrificial death.

**III. The glorious gifts which flow from that perfect obedience.**

**(a)** It gives us a living law to obey.

**(b)** It gives us a transforming power to receive.

**(c)** It gives us a perfect righteousness to trust to.

This perfect obedience may be ours. Being ours, our lives will be strong, free, peaceful.

That obedience becomes ours by faith, which leads to love, and love to the glad obedience of sons.