

## God's Special Attention

There is an old and beautiful story about a woman who dreamed that she saw three other women at prayer. As they kneeled the Master approached them. As He came to the first of the three He bent over her with tender solicitude, and smiles full of radiant love, speaking to her in words of softest, tenderest music. Leaving her and approaching the next, He only placed His hand upon her head and gave her one look of tender approval. But the third woman He passed almost abruptly without a word or glance. The woman in her dream said to herself, "How tenderly the Lord must love this first of His children. The second He is not angry with, and yet for her has no endearments like those bestowed upon the first." She wondered how the third had grieved Him so that He gave her no look, no passing word. As in her dream she attempted to account for the action of the Lord. The Master Himself confronted her, and addressing her said, "Oh woman of the world, — how wrongly have you judged. The first kneeling woman needs all the comfort of My constant care to keep her feet in the way. The second has stronger faith and deeper love, but the third woman I seemed to pass abruptly by has faith and love of the finest fiber, and I am preparing her by swift processes for the highest and holiest service. She knows and loves and trusts Me so perfectly as to be independent of words or looks.

The value of this teaching is that some child of God, overwhelmed with great and crushing sorrows, is longing for the sound of His voice, and there is nothing but silence. It may be that the silence is a sign, not of disapproval but of approval. Do not be cast down. If in the midst of tribulation and suffering there is no voice, it may be that the silence of the Lord is His highest commendation.