

29. Chap. St. Matthew x 23. O. Jerusalem

The Enmity of the human Heart
against God, visible as it is in all
our Conduct, is Deservable in
nothing more than in the Treas-
-ment that has been shewn in all
Ages to his faithful Servants—
One might well expect that Persons
commissioned by the Supreme
Governor of the universe to instruct
and reform mankind should
be welcomed in every Expression
of Love and Gratitude. But historic
fact precluded the possibility of
a Reply ~~to a Reply~~ to that Heart
searching Question of our Lord, when

he asked the Jews, which of the
Prophets have your Fathers not
persecuted? Nevertheless, God in
infinite mercy after, an Host of
faithful messengers, had in Legion
been cruelly put to death, was he able
to send his only dear Son with
Credentials indisputable, with his
Authority, and with Compassion
infinite: and yet was not his ministry
unsuccessful. The distance and hidden
-ness of men, withstood all his
kind and pressing solicitations; and
constrained him, with his dying
breath to testify against his Devoted
Country, as self ruined & self condemned

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The words before us will naturally
lead us to consider —
1st The tender Compassion of Christ
2^{dy} The unrelenting abstinence of man
The simplicity by which our Lord illus-
-trates his own Tender Tenderness
and Love is admirably calculated
to impress, and edify our minds —
It is familiar to us all, and therefore
is easily understood by persons
of the meanest capacity; at the
same time it gives us ^{as} just
an Idea of parental Anxiety as
any Image can convey — After
observing a kind of prey hovering
over her young instantly surrounds

the Alarm, and calls them to her
for Protection she spreads her
wings, and covers them. Thus our
Lord warmed Livvies in the days
of his Flesh, and still continues
to warm them. Vainly by his
Providence - All the Dispensations
of Providence relating to the Church
at large, or to ourselves, ~~but~~ in
particular, have a voice, which
may be heard with Ease, and
interpreted with Certainty -
whether they be of a more pleasing
or painful nature; they may ~~be~~
be regarded alike as calls to us
to turn from Sin, and to seek our
Happiness in God

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And if we had been as attentive to
the dictates of Reason, as the Chieft-
-ens are to the Impulse of their natu-
-al Instinct, we should all long since
have returned from our Sinful
Reprobs, and we should have been
led by his Goodness and long suffering
to true Repentance
God has not only warned ^{us} against
Sin by his Providence, but also by
his word. we would ask what
are all the ~~warnings~~ ^{warnings}, the Invitations
the precious Promises of the Gospel
but the Expressions of that anxious
and tender Regard that Christ
bears to his People? Let us hear

what the Lord says to us in the
first Chapter of Jeremiah - How long
ye simple ones will ye love simplicity
and the scorners Delight in their
scoffing, and will hate Knowledge,
I turn ye at my Reproof: behold I
will pour out my Thint upon you
I will make known my words
unto you. And again. Whosoever
that thirsteth come ye to the waters
and he that hath no money.

Incline your Ear, and come unto me
hearer, and your soul shall live, and
I will make an everlasting Covenant
with you: ever since when upon
Earth in one of her public discourses
made the following Declaration

on the last Day the great Day of
the Great Jesus stood and cryed, and
said, if any thirst let him come
unto me, and Drink - he that believeth
on me as the Scriptures has said
out of his belly shall flow Rivers
of living water. and this he shake
of the Spirit which should be given
unto them that believed on him
when the Holy Ghost should
be poured out in the Day of Pente-
cost - Surely if we be not more dead
than the Adder, we cannot but
acknowledge, in all these, that if
Christ ~~is~~ is speaking unto us, and
intreating us to flee from the wrath
to come

movement, when ever the ministers
of X. have spoken unto us, in his
name, our adorable Saviour has
addressed us by their mouth. our
Lord not only warms us by his Pro-
vidence, and by his word, but also by his
Spirit. There is no man so hardened
and obdurate, but he has felt, and

perhaps still occasionally feels some
convictions, and remonstrances with
in his own breast; some secret
convictions to repent and turn to
God. we call these properly the
voice of Conscience, but they are
also the voice of Christ that
still small voice, whereby he
invites and intreats us to seek
his grace

And in them, ⁴no less than in the
the written word, we have a demon-
-stration of the Concern which X. has
the salvation of our souls, and ~~for~~ of
his solicitude to gather us under his
wings. But these divine Efforts, instead
of being esteemed and requited by us
as they ought, ^{they} only ^{abound} as an occasion
of contemplating in the 2^d place
the unrelenting obstinacy & distance
of man. ~~Instead~~ In the midst of
all these overtures of divine mercy
abounded him by Providence, by
the word of God, and by the holy Spi-
rit man continues insensible, and
by his general conduct desires
that any danger of the loss of

of his soul exists. The Lawier beholds
the Law denouncing its Crime against
us, and Divine Justice unsheathing
its sword to enforce its awful
Sanctions, and Hell opening its mouth
us up quick; and the fallen Angels
as ministers of God's vengeance
ready to concur in the Punishment we
deserve, of these things our Lawier
warns us, but we like the Inhabitants
of Sodom - when he even warned
his sons and Daughters to flee from
Sodom, with tears and Interests, he
seemed like one that mocked, until
the Fire ~~then~~ descended from Heaven
and consumed them all. we in like
manner laugh at the impending

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Judgments, and because we do not
see them with our Eyes we are totally
indifferent about them. This was the awful
state of mankind before the Flood -
Now, that preacher of righteousness
faithfully warned the Ungodly of the
Divine Judgments, but they regarded
not until the Flood came, and
swept them all away. How terrible
- like is it, that we should be more
stupid, and incredulous than the
prudent Creation: and that our Conduct
instead of being suitable to our nobler
Faculties, we enjoy should be in
perfect Contrast with theirs -
Again we are prone to content our-
selves with false notions -

when heavy Afflictions come
upon us, we no longer deny the
Existence of Danger. we then look
out for such Refuges as will be
most ~~convenient~~ congenial to
our natural feelings, and will leave
us most at Liberty to follow our
own ways. many Expedients Speedily
present themselves to our view -
we now consider some Repentance,
some Repurification, some Alms-
= Deeds, some religious Observances
afford, as we imagine some ample
Security for our Souls; while yet
they require no great Exercise of
Self Denial in fleeing to them

But in choosing these Refuges & Lies
we renounce the Saviour, who alone
can afford us any Relief, and ^{ourselves} expose
to inevitable, everlasting Destruction.
for there is no means ~~given~~ provided
by an almighty God, no other name given
under Heaven by which any can be
saved, but the name of Jes- without
we become acquainted with him by
Faith, we must perish and that
without Remedy.
we may observe further, that
men kind ^{prefer} temporal, and carnal
Pleasures, to those which are
Spiritual and eternal. when the
necessity of fleeing ^{to} it is felt and
acknowledged; the Pleasures of it
and all its Vanities are suffered to

stand in ~~no~~ competition with our
Duty to him, and are preferred before
the security which he offers.

Thus the Lascivious Calls are Disregard^d
The Chickings however occupied in
picking up their word, will not
Disregard their Parents Calls but run
for shelter under the wings of their
mother but sinful man is distinct-
ly bent upon some favourite Pursue-
it, and the Complaint in our text is
best fully verified. Now after he
we have now considered the tender
Compassion of X^t. towards us which
he has manifested by his Providence
by his word - and by his Spirit -

and also the unremitting Abstinence
of man - That he considers himself in no
danger - contents himself with false
Refuges - and prefers temporal and
carnal Pleasures, to Spiritual and
eternal - Let us now improve
the Subject in a way of Inquiry -
Have we never felt our Danger
of perishing - and taken shelter
under our Redeemers wings?
we can be at no loss to answer this
important Question, if we only
consult the Records of our own
Conscience. The necessity of fleeing
to X^t is plainly intimated, in the
Image before us - and attested
by innumerable other Passages of Holy
Scripture

It now then, if your own Hearts
condemn you, you have con Evidence
within yourselves, that you are yet
exposed unto the wrath of God
O. tremble at the thought, and let
out delay flee to the Refuge set
before you - I may further observe
that it is of little use here to deny
our Danger - If the helpless Chickens
should disregard their Parents call
under the Idea that the warning
given them was the result of
congratulated near would that denial
of the Danger free them from it -
would not their Presumption bring
upon them the very Destruction
they refused to shun? Thus it will
be with all those who despise the

the Saviour's voice. Their security
will be their ruin. nor will they be
at all more safe, if they content
themselves with committing nearer
to him in his public Ordinances
while they defer hiding themselves
altogether under the shadow of
his wings. It is there alone poor
guilty Sinners, such as we all are
can find Protection - If we are
not found in him, the wrath of
an offended God, will abide upon
us. O. tremble at this awful thought
and reflect seriously upon your present
state; and be thankful to God, that
after so many calls, and warnings

which you have neglected and
despised, the voice of mercy is still
sounding in your ears - God is still
exhibiting to you as an almighty
Saviour - your sins ^{are} ~~have~~ great
and multiplied, you have had
many warnings to repent and
turn to God - your lives have been
preserved through many dangers -
while many of your companions
relatives and friends have been cut
off by death, and are gone to that
Country from whence none
return - In whatever state death
arrested them, they still remain -
and many of them may lie ^{un}answering
as the rich man mentioned by was

mentioned by our Lord that you may be
warned, lest you also come into
the same place of torment -
There is but a step between the wicked
and the bottomless pit. How many
amongst us quit this present of
every week, and in the most awful
manner - some are driven away
in the midst of riot and drunken-
ness, others fall by the hand of the
murderer - while some lay violent
hands upon themselves, and become
their own Executioners - and die
in the midst of their sins, in the
very Act of self murder - So
reflect upon the dreadful state of
such men, and woe now is inexpress-
ibly painful to the serious mind -
The real Christian will mourn in
secret over such lost sinners

and will be exceedingly thankful to
Almighty God, who has kept him
back from such presumptuous
Sins — and will be more and more
excited to call upon God for Grace
and Strength, to enable him to with-
stand the Temptations of Satan, and will
pray with David, hark then we will
rejoice, what Encouragement
does the Gospel hold out unto us —
we would ask, who is it that our
Saviour calls? The innocent, the
good the virtuous? no, but those
who had imbrued their Hands in
the blood of all his ~~many~~ martyred
servants — and there he calls to of
dearest Compassion; O Jerusalem
Jerusalem do thou here he appeals, that

that he hath renewed his invitations
to them times without number, and
that if they perish they will be the
sole Authors of their own Destruction.
Let us apply this to ourselves — Now
after would he have gathered you
to himself but you would not come.
This is still the accepted time for
you — this is the Day of Salvation —
now then, that your sins
however great and heinous shall
be no bar to your Acceptance, if
only you will flee to Christ —
when you he weeps as he did
over the murderous inhabitants
of Jerusalem because you have to
this day rejected his Gospel, yet
he declares unto you this day

that whosoever cometh unto him
he will in no wise cast out.
Remember if you perish it will
not be for ^{want of} willingness in λ ! to
save you - nor for want of mercy
in God for that is infinite. and
this Consideration, which is to day
so very encouraging, will one
day fill you with inconceivable
astonishment when he shall ^{call} you
out of time into Eternity. You
will then say, λ would save me,
but I would not be saved. O let
not that reflection in which you
eternal state. Our heavenly fathers
you, that when you shall see
Abraham Isaac & Jacob, and all
the pious believers in Jesus ~~in~~

many of whom you have known
in this world in the Kingdom of
God, and ye yourselves thrust ^{out}, then
says he, you will weep and wail
and gnash your teeth, but all in
vain - Eternal Despair will fill
your wretched minds - Hope will
never enter into your breasts -
Your doom will then be unalterably
fixed, and nothing will remain
for you but Perdition.
Arise then now, and call upon your
God, that ye perish not. ~~Let~~ seek
mercy whilst it may be found -
Do not procrastinate your
Repentance another day in Year
for you cannot tell when you
may ~~to~~ to morrow, in what

unknown Region you may
have taken up your eternal
Abode. may God of his infinite
mercy grant, that what has
been addressed to you this day
may be so deeply impressed
upon your minds, that it may
living forth in you the fruits
of good living to the praise of
God, and to the final salvation
of your souls—