

**AS JESUS PASSED BY,
AND OTHER ADDRESSES.
THIRD EDITION**

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As Jesus Passed by, and Other Addresses. Third Edition by Gipsy Smith

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Yours heartily
Pipery Smith

As Jesus Passed By

And Other Addresses

By
GIPSY SMITH



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I

**AS JESUS PASSED BY; OR,
FOLLOW ME**

"And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man called Mathew, sitting at the place of toll. And He saith unto him, Follow Me. And he arose and followed Him,"—*Mat. 9 : 9.*

I

AS JESUS PASSED BY ; OR, FOLLOW ME

THIS is Matthew's modest way of telling all generations how he was converted. Matthew could have made a great deal more of that epoch-making moment in his life. Sometimes I think when he wrote just as much as my text he would not write any more that day. Can you not see between the lines what a story is there untold? He does not even tell you that he lived in a big house. He does not tell you that he made a big feast. He does not tell you that he invited all his old friends to come and meet with Jesus at the feast. He leaves others to tell you that little bit of the story. He simply says there was a feast. Very modest is Matthew. He says Jesus saw a man, and said to that man, "Follow Me," and the man followed; that is all. Some of us at certain moments of our lives cannot trust ourselves to tell all the story. We keep something back; we cannot trust ourselves to put the story into words. There are pages in every life that will never be written. There are stories

10 As Jesus Passed By; or, Follow Me

untold to mortal ear over which the angels rejoice. There are moments when only the sky and the sun, the moon and the stars, the birds and the flowers, and the heaven eternal can hear all we have to say of His wonderful grace and mercy. We can only tell a bit of it, just a little bit of it. I want you to think of this wonderful moment—and it was a wonderful moment, a moment when gospels were born, a moment in which history began to breathe, a moment when in his soul there was placed the germ-joy that will make heaven pulsate with hallelujahs. It was a wonderful moment in his life when he saw Jesus standing there calling him by name, speaking to him as a man would to his friend, appealing to him.

Why should Jesus go to this man? Because this man needed Jesus. I believe deep down in this man's heart he was longing for Christ. I am not so sure that he had not heard John the Baptist preach. I am not so sure that he was not already a convicted sinner. I am not so sure that he had not heard John say, "Behold the Lamb of God!" There were moments in his life when he longed to get a look at that dear face, to hear the music of that voice, and

As Jesus Passed By: or, Follow Me 11

catch some inspiration from His life-giving message, and to feel the touch that healed. And I can imagine that even that day he could not see his books for his tears. He was at his business, you remember; he sat at the place of toll, everything in front of him, and while he was thinking of the inward longings, while the soul-hunger was gnawing, while the man within the man was talking to him and setting in motion thoughts and feelings that were eternal, I can imagine him saying, "Oh, shall I ever see Him?" And maybe he laid his head on his hands in his grief, and at that moment Jesus said, "Matthew, Matthew, follow Me." You know Matthew was ready to do it. He did it instantly, without asking a question, without any hesitation. He acted as though he had made his plans as to what he would do if he had the chance. He left all. He does not tell you that, he leaves the others to add that bit to the story; and his all was the possibility of becoming very rich. He left it all: he left his books, he left his business, he left his office, he left his position, he left his friends, he left *all* to follow Jesus. Matthew had counted the cost, and knew what he would do if the chance came. Jesus knew it too. He