

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF CONSOLATION—COMFORT.

" *Joses, by the Apostles, was surnamed Barnabas, which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation [comfort]* " — Acts 4:36.



"Our Lord Jesus was a Comforter in Zion above and beyond all other comforters. He entered into sympathy with the meek and lowly and right-intentioned in all of their weaknesses and trials and difficulties; and this is the hold that the character and words of Jesus have to-day upon our hearts, and also upon the hearts of many who are not his people in the full consecrated sense. It was not by continually chiding the apostles, and accusing them, but because, instead, our Lord sympathized with them, assisted them, and interpreted their heart-intentions liberally, generously, that they became more and more his faithful followers, even unto death. Note the case of the woman taken in sin, and our Lord's failure to make any pharisaical tirade against her. Mark his reproof to those who stood by: 'He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone.' Mark how, when they were all thus convicted of imperfection in some particular themselves, our Lord said to the woman, 'Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.' (John 8:3-11.)



Christ and Sinner by Henryk Siemiradzki, 1873

Notice his dealing with the Apostle Peter, after he had denied him cursing and swearing. Many of the Lord's followers, if in his stead, would have felt it their bounden duty to rebuke Peter publicly before all the apostles, and to have required public confession and some sort of penance; and on every possible occasion afterward to have thrown in his face his weakness and disloyalty. Such have not rightly interpreted and copied the Lord's spirit, and hence are not sons and daughters of consolation in the Church. They are, on the contrary, strife-breeders, vexatious hinderers of the work they desire to forward. They should hear the Master's voice, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." In proportion as we learn of the Lord we become, not mouthpieces for the Law merely, but mouthpieces specially for mercy and love and helpfulness and comfort.

COMFORT! Consolation! What rest and refreshment and peace and joy these words imply!

'Let us have the holy Spirit abounding in us more and more, for this is the Lord's good pleasure; that with it dwelling in us richly we may be all sons and daughters of comfort in Zion, representatives of our Father, and channels of the holy Spirit, as well as of the Truth.'

—ZION'S WATCH TOWER, OCTOBER 1, 1904.—