

Questions and Answers.

“ When we see cruelty and oppression, what can we rightly do? ” It is not easy to generalize. Ecclesiastes 5. 8 is impressive, but we must not be indifferent (Prov. 24. 11, 12). We cannot deal with authorities in a Russia, nor can we use political methods, but would remember 1 Peter 4. 19. If we see a child ill-treating another, surely we should stop the sin for the sake of the wrong-doer as well as the oppressed. Sometimes we may be able to prevent fighting of those grown up, but we must not adopt the methods of Exodus 2. 12. Verse 13 is different, we may reprove by a question sometimes (certainly when we have responsibility, 1 Kings 1. 6). Grace is needed to refrain from anything “ PENAL ” (i.e.; as a judge, Matt. 7. 1), also that we may not seek to bring this about from others,—we are strangers and pilgrims. But “ LOVE ” to the wrong-doer may well “ CHECK ” him. Yet we need grace that we may not break Proverbs 26. 17 (see 2 Chron. 35. 20-24). Any appearance of self-exaltation, or carrying out of “ judgment,” or prayerlessness will bring real failure. What grace we need! The Lord Jesus and the whip in John 2 have been mentioned. Apart from the fact that He was in authority as to the temple, here was a miracle, He was perfect, so could do all things without one erring thought. But we must also notice that verse 15 says (lit.) “ He drove them all out of the temple —both the sheep and the oxen.” There is no word that He struck the persons. What grace and patience we need!