

GOD BLESS OUR HOMES.

Mark 2:1, "It was noticed that He was in the house."

GOD can bless our homes when Jesus is in them.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter, his wife, & mother-in-law were residents of Capernaum. This may have been their house.

I. Jesus comes into a home only by invitation.

1. He does not force his presence on us.

2. He may gain admission by various means.

A. A little child

B. Influence of a Christian friend

C. Bible or tracts

II. Christ in the Home is a Benediction

1. Benediction of pardon and peace

Prayers and Bible reading

2. Love and kindness. — poem "Thoughtlessness"

3. Precious memories

A. Joseph... pharaoh's gold collar, colossal pyramids
rigid lines of saluting soldiers, splendors of
the palace, red sandstone columns, his gleaming
golden chariot, all faded from view —

Instead he saw the live oak trees, black tents,
and dusty flocks of Hebrews.

B. In 1863 the Union and Confederate armies along the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg. In the evening when there was a lull in the fighting both armies would sing their favorite songs. The Union men would play and sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and cheers would go up.

Confed. men would play and sing "Dixie",
and cheers would go up.

Then one played "Home Sweet Home" and both armies sent up a great cheer. They had struck a universal chord which knew no union or secession.

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may ram,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;
A charm from the sky seems to hall'w us there,
Whick, seek through the world, is ne'er met with else-

How sweet tis to sit 'neath a fond father's smile,
And the cares of a mother to soothe and beguile!

Let ^others delight mid new pleasures to roam,
But give me, ^oh, give me, the pleasures ^of Home"

4. The Christian Home is a benediction to the nation.
So long as there are homes to which men turn
At close of day;
So long as there are homes where children are,
Where women stay ---
If love and loyalty and faith be found
Across these sills ---
A stricken nation can recover from its gravest ills"

III. Christ in the House is an Attraction

1. "Many were gathered together"
2. A place where ^others can find Christ

"I sought him in a great Cathedral, dim with age, where oft-repeated prayers arise,
But caught n^o glimpse of Him.

I sought Him then atop a lonely hill,
Like Moses once, but though I scanned the skies,
My search was fruitless still.

There was a little home where grief and care
Had bred but courage, love, and valiant will,
I sought and found Him there."

3. The Christian Home is an attraction to those who have gone out from it.

Story of Henry W. Grady, of the Atlanta Constitution
T. De Witt Talmadge, the great preacher, had spoken at a N.Y. banquet of the return of the Northern soldier. Grady arose and told in simple pathos of the Confederate soldier returning, wasted and ragged, in his faded gray uniform, to his ruined and desolate home in the South.

Once Grady left his office of the Atl. Const. and went to the old Georgia farm and spend almost a week with his mother. . .

When Christ dwells in the home
it is invisible to the world that
he does so.

If Christ be within the heart,
the family, or the church.—
the fact will be known abroad.

The presence of Christ is
the drawing power of Xty.

If we would draw the multitudes,
we must do it,
not so much by eccentricities
or by advertisement,
as by obtaining the presence
of Christ.

Crowds that are drawn by gimmicks
rather than by God

will be like the plants with
no roots in rocky ground
and they wither when the sun &
storms of testing follow.

many long for some dramatic opportunity to show their spiritual heroism and courage.

Paul says to such people, "I will ~~tell~~ you of a place where you can show forth all that is finest in your character and that place is in your own home."

I Tim 5:4: "Let them learn first to show piety at home... let them first learn their religious duty to their own family, ~~and~~ for this is acceptable in the sight of God."

v.8: "If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

If a man does not serve God on a small scale, he never will serve him on a large one.