

THE ROSE OF CHRISTMAS

LEGEND: The roses had a meeting to decide at what season they would like to blossom.

Most of them preferred June.

One little plant thought, "It seems too bad that all the roses should bloom when all the world is already full of beauty."

"I should like to have blossoms that would cheer when things were dreary."

"I should like to bloom in winter!"

Then winter came to the North, and there was a heavy snowfall on Christmas Day.

A young lady passed away and went to be with Him Who had once been the Christ-Child. Someone said, "How sad that there should be no flowers; she was so fond of flowers."

Another said: "I know a bush which has blossoms under the snow. It is in the far corner of the garden."

They dug ~~away~~^{thru} the snow-drifts and sure enough ~~deep down below~~ the brave plant had done its best.

Dozens of roses bloomed strongly, daintily, with pale pink frills. More than enough....

In a house nearby a baby was born, and the mother found a flower on her pillow when she woke up.

In another house was a gay wedding, and the roses adorned the bride's table.

Happy rose bush, for it had given beauty and gladness to the great events of life!

Something better.... The Lord of the Garden named it the Christmas Rose.

I. You can bring joy, blessing, help to others when they need it.

II. When you do, you will be bringing joy and blessing to your own heart.

III. Christmas means unselfishness, sharing Christ with others. Don't be selfish.

The first act of worship to Christ was that of giving. Think of what you can do for others rather than for yourself.

IV. Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love Divine,

Love was born at Christmas,

Stars & angels gave the sign.

V. Bring all the love you can into the world---

all the beauty, all the kindness,

all the helpfulness, like the Rose of Christmas.

VI. When one does this it is impossible to escape the notice and reward of the Lord of the Garden.

VII. God's Giving and Ours

A. God gave his Son deliberately and roy A purposefully for us. We should give to Him according to a plan, with intelligence, purpose, priority, regularity, and consistency ---

not as a little child who strikes a note on the piano when he or she happens to be passing by.

B. We should give as springs, not as leaky pumps where the well is dry, and leaks the pump leaks!

C. Jesus cautions his disciples against doing the right things from wrong motives. They were to give alms, not for the sake of reputation, or for their own interests, but out of a simple benevolence or love for God and mankind.

D. Some people won't give from ANY motive; they are tighter than the bark on growing trees!!

E. It is a good thing for a man who means to give when he dies, to consider that he is likely to die tomorrow; and give today.

F. The Bible says, "He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity --- not pompously, not ostentatiously, not boastfully. Don't give, as many rich men do, like a hen, that lays her egg, and then cackles!"