

Christ In The Home

Introduction. The home of the twenty-first century does not enjoy the scripturally wholesome and supremely important position it maintained in previous ages. Crumbling home foundations constitute one of the saddest portraits of our day. The deterioration of the home has been noted by both religious and secular thinkers. The sinister forces of materialism and immorality are undermining the stability of the home throughout the world.

No matter what happens in this world, I am convinced that our homes need to be happy. They deserve to be productive of goodness and the protectors of virtue and purity. But only Jesus can restore our homes to their first foundations, thus allowing them to be happy.

We are going to examine four accounts in the New Testament where Jesus visited four first century homes in Palestine. Two of these homes were located in Galilee and two were located in Judea. Jesus was welcome in each home; He was not an intruder and He never stayed long where He was unwanted and unwelcome. It is a foregone conclusion that Jesus does not live in our homes today unless we have made Him welcome.

There was a real need in each of these homes. There was the need of comfort, encouragement and salvation. Each one of these involved a challenge common to all homes. Jesus did not come to these homes empty-handed. The rich storehouse of blessings were always at His disposal and He always brought the blessing most needed. Let's turn in our Bibles and examine these homes and then make some practical applications for our homes.

I. ***Illness In The Home -- Mark 1:29-31***

- A. Jesus came as the "Great Physician" to the home of Peter's mother-in-law. Following a busy and eventful day in a synagogue at Capernaum, the Master briefly visited the humble home of Simon Peter and Andrew.
- B. We are long past the age of miraculous cures such as the "Great Physician" performed upon Peter's mother-in-law (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).
 1. Many of us have been associated with illnesses in the home. With a few exceptions it has been my experience that Christian homes were much better equipped to accept, endure and profit from sicknesses than were homes void of the Lord's help.
 2. Christians have learned that bodily afflictions can bring one closer to God (Psalm 119:67, 71; James 1:2-4; 5:13, 16; Romans 5:3-5). A Christian can face illness with Christian courage.
- C. Sin loses its magnetic power to attract when illness is present. The beauty of spiritual needs and realities glows more brightly than ever

when a Christian is sick. Sin has no power to bolster the sick; Christ does. Sin is totally impotent in extending help in the hour of pain; Christ is all-powerful in this realm (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

- D. Sickness in irreligious homes is a double reason for pity.
 - 1. There is first of all the pain, discomfort and inconvenience which comes with illness and secondly they do not have the Lord to lean upon (Ephesians 2:12).
 - 2. The love of Christ gives us a wonderful friend in prosperity and adversity (Proverbs 17:17). Tender affection is given us in health and undying interest is the conferred blessing in illness.

II. ***Death In The Home -- Mark 5:22-24, 35-43***

- A. Jesus came as the resurrection and the life to Jairus' home.
 - 1. The compassionate ear of the Lord is always attuned to the call of one in trouble. As the Lord drew near to the home, the word came that the girl was dead.
 - 2. However, the Master was not detoured in the least. Moments before it had been the home of sickness; now it becomes the chamber of death.
 - 3. Jesus would perform one of His greatest miracles and show that death could not hold captive the child that the author of life willed to live again.
- B. We know that the pale horse and its rider are never far removed from the threshold of any home. Death can strike suddenly and without warning, or it can strike slowly. There is all the difference in the world between offering comfort to a Christian family who possesses the precious hope of seeing their departed one on that eternal shore and in standing by the side of those who are without God and Christ in this present world (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).
- C. No resurrection of the dead will immediately restore our loved one as in Jairus' case but the promise of a future resurrection of life will undergird our faith and give us courage and solace (John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57).
- D. You may have heard the expression that someone was "leaning" toward Christ when they died. But "leaning" is not equal to obeying from the heart that form of doctrine that frees one from sin (Romans 6:17). "Leaning" is not equal to a faithful life in the Lord Jesus (Revelation 2:10). We must have Him in life if He is to be by our side in the day of death.

III. ***Distractions In The Home -- Luke 10:38-42***

- A. Jesus came bearing the wonderful words of encouragement to Martha's home. Perhaps no home in first century Palestine, other than His own

with Joseph and Mary while growing up, ever afforded Jesus a more wonderful welcome or a more permanent type of hospitality than did this one in the quiet setting of Bethany. Martha in her domestic-centered world is taught a needed lesson.

- B. As Mary was listening to the words of life from the Savior, Martha was busy preparing the meal for the Lord. Mary sought to listen attentively to His instructions and was anxious to learn His teachings (Proverbs 25:11; Isaiah 50:4). But Martha was troubled about so much that was needless while what was needful was neglected.
- C. We do not have any evidence that Martha was worldly (1 John 2:15; James 4:4).
 - 1. What she did was good for the Lord, but to hear His word was an even greater task. Martha should have chosen to hear the words of wisdom from the Lord, for He would not be with them much longer (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - 2. We may face the same situation. We have godly lives and attend to the Lord's work as best we can, but there may be many instances where we are unnecessarily troubled by cares and distractions.
- D. Rather than heeding the words of the Lord and letting Him live in us (John 12:48), we are worried about watching the news, or making sure the house or the car are in spotless condition, or that the children are in bed at the precise time, or catching the weekly meeting of some organization or ball game. None of these are wrong per se, but we must make sure that we are putting our priorities in right place (Matthew 6:33).

IV. ***Sin In The Home -- Luke 19:1-10***

- A. Jesus came as the Savior to Zaccheus' house. Nature may have bypassed Zaccheus in supplying height but it had not left him lacking in practical planning. Zaccheus was eager to know the Lord more fully and Jesus was eager to spend time with him. Zaccheus was eager to repent of his sins and Jesus was eager to bless his tender-hearted host.
- B. The same Jesus who brought salvation to the Jericho household of Zaccheus still comes to confer the same gift today. The Savior's mission is still the same as it was in Luke 19:10. However, Jesus does not come into our homes apart from the gospel. We cannot make Him welcome and then demonstrate contempt for the gospel. The power to remit sins was not within the political Roman dominion then or within man's prerogative now.

- C. The Lord tells us precisely how we must be saved. His requirements are as follows:
1. Believe (John 8:24).
 2. Repent (Luke 13:3).
 3. Confess (Matthew 10:32).
 4. Baptism (John 3:3-5).
 5. Faithful life (Matthew 16:24).
- D. This is exactly how Christ will confer salvation to each member of the home now. There is no other way for our homes to become Christian homes except by gospel obedience. Truth is truth whether anyone accepts it or all reject it. We cannot make family accept or even listen to the truth. They must want to hear and accept it like Zaccheus.

Conclusion. Jesus left these homes in far better condition than He found them. Four homes, four visits, four blessings conferred and four homes lifted to a higher plane of spiritual standing. Christ in today's home is the most pressing need of the twenty-first century family. If we will bring Jesus into our homes and lift up the Bible, Jesus and the Bible will lift up our families to a higher spiritual eminence than it has ever enjoyed before.