

Visible and Invisible Presence of Christ

There are persons who, when they read the Gospel, are apt to repine and regret it was not given to them to live on this earth at the same time with Our Lord. It would have been such a consolation, it would have done so much good to their poor souls, to see Our Lord, be near Him, gaze on His heavenly countenance, and witness His miracles, receive from His very lips the words of eternal life, accompany Him from place to place, and perhaps minister to His wants. Surely they could not help being saints.

Others again wish Our Lord had remained on earth to govern His Church Himself. Had He done so, He would captivate all hearts, convert the whole world, prevent all crimes and heresies, console the afflicted, etc.

Such language implies a great want of a proper appreciation of invisible, but Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. To such I would not hesitate to say you have far more than you ask for. The invisible presence of Our Lord in His Sacrament of love, is a much greater blessing than was His visible presence.

He says it Himself: "It is better for you that I should go."

If our Lord were visible on this earth He would either always keep in the same locality, in Jerusalem, Rome, or some other chosen residence, or He would move about from place to place, so as to visit all Christian countries in turn and within a given period of time.

If He were always in the same place, how few, comparatively, would be able to see Him, even once in their lives! Fewer still would enjoy the privilege of a private interview of any duration.

Suppose that He were to move about from place to place; were He to go every where, His stay in any given locality could be but very brief and His visits occur at rather rare intervals; and though most Christians would then have a probable chance to see Him, once