

wait on these regularly; thus discountenancing those who despise the ordinary means of grace in seeking for excitement, which is apt to die down, and nothing but ashes be left behind. Luke iv : 16 : "As his custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read," and preached from Isaiah : "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" . . . He preached on the mountain and in the desert, on the plain and from the deck of a ship. He entered into this house and that house, to offer salvation to the inmates. When He came down from the mount, where He had proclaimed the truth to thousands, He went into the house where Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever; He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she ministered unto them, as all those do who have been healed of Christ. The people follow him into the houses which He enters. He instructs them; and "the people heard him gladly." He goes into the house of a Pharisee, and a woman, who was a sinner, heard that He was there, and she sought him out, and stood at his feet behind him weeping; and He addressed her in the most tender manner, showing how those who felt the burden of their sin might be relieved, and sent her away, saying, "Thy sins be forgiven thee; thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace."

He is in a house in Capernaum, and straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door; and in order to reach him in the court of the house, they took up a paralytic whom they wished him to heal, to the parapet to let him down; and our Lord said: "Thy sins be forgiven; arise, take up thy bed and go thy way into thine house"; and he used the occasion to preach the doctrine of forgiveness to the assembled multitude (Mark ii : 3-12). From the very beginning of his ministry He began to organize a church, calling Peter, James and John from their fishing boats, and Matthew from the receipt of custom, ordaining twelve as apostles, and afterward other seventy; sending them forth, two and two, before his face, to do as He was doing. These men, when they entered a city, were to fix on an appropriate house, to remain there, and make it known as a place to which the people might resort. "Into whatsoever house ye enter first say Peace be to this house." They were not to confine their ministrations to house visitations; they were commanded specially to go out to the hedges and highways, and "compel" the people to come in—by a moral, and not a physical, compulsion. Before leaving the apostles, who were to plant the church, He commanded them to "preach the gospel to every creature."

The disciples obeyed the command, and followed the example of their Master. We find Peter preaching to multitudes in the temple; but they had also meetings in this house and in that; "they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house