

probably know what the Ark of God was, and the place it held under the Old Testament dispensation. It was called also "the Ark of the Covenant," and was a small chest, made under God's direction, containing the two tables of stone, some manna, and other sacred things. But the chief thing about it was that the blood of atonement was sprinkled yearly on its lid, called the mercy-seat, and that over that lid the little cloud, which was the visible token of God's presence, used to appear. It was a beautiful type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the good things that are offered to sinners, and come to sinners, through what He has done. What he has done to make reconciliation for sinners through his own blood; and the result of that reconciliation, when it is believed in and accepted, is the presence of God, and of every good thing which the presence of God brings with it. By a remarkable train of circumstances, Obed-edom had the opportunity of bringing the Ark of God into his house. Other people were afraid of it, because a man had been struck dead who handled it improperly. But Obed-edom saw very clearly that what people should be afraid of was not the Ark of God, or His presence, but the profane and improper tampering with it. So he opened the door of his house to receive it, and what followed was a very rich reward for that act of child-like faith.

Now all this is like a parable to us. We can bless God that not only may we bring Christ into our homes, but that He stands knocking at the door, entreating us to let Him in. Whatever the home may be as to outward things, it is nothing without Christ. He is the "chief corner-stone" on which God builds whatever is good and lasting, and no man can build a home, or anything else that is good and lasting, without making Him the corner-stone. Jesus comes into the home by coming into the hearts of those who live in it. Religion is the only satisfactory basis of family life. Human affection may alter or grow cold, human authority may be weak, or unwisely exercised; but when you bring in Christ, and put Him on the Throne, and distinctly recognize Him as the centre and lawgiver of family life, you have done the one thing needful for the making of a real home, a home that will never bring you shame or pain, a home that will live for ever in the grateful recollection of all who have been privileged to dwell in it.

Now I do not blame any one for wanting to make a home nice and comfortable, a place it is a pleasure to go into. And it may be that you have been lately thinking of some things that you want in your house to make it more what you would like to see it. Perhaps you have been thinking of a new carpet, or of some more pictures, or of something fresh to replace the furniture which has become shabby with the wear of years. Or it may be that you are fond of flowers, and have been thinking where you can get some nice plants to make the conservatory gay, or to give an air of cheerfulness to the room. But oh, friends, the great want of your house is none of these things. You may get them all, bringing them all in—without bringing a blessing. What you want, what we all want at home, is Jesus, and more of Jesus. * * *

You know about the man who had a house full of many things—but without the one thing. What did he do but climb up into a tree to see Jesus as he passed? And what did Jesus do but look straight into his