

# THE SON OF GOD

## "No Room For Him on The Earth."

sermon by Dwight L. Moody the Great Evangelist Preached at the Grand Central Palace, New York City.

"They laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

For four thousand years every true saint of God had been looking out into the mist and future, waiting and watching for the coming of the Messiah. Away back in the dark day when Adam fell, God put a lamp of promise in his hand, and told him that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and Bible students think that when Eve brought forth her first born son, and called him Cain, she thought he was a promised One. Right on for four thousand years they kept looking and watching and waiting for the coming One. That is the true attitude of every child of God, and has been for six thousand years, excepting the thirty-three years that Jesus Christ was upon earth. When he had finished his work, and was ready to go back to the Father, he said, "Watch, I will come back again." The true attitude of every child of God is to watch for him from heaven.

When he came back there was no room for him. Mark what he came for; to seek and to save the lost, to give strength to the weak, to give sight to the blind, liberty to the captives, to heal the broken-hearted, to reveal the Father. Not to condemn the world, not to take life, but to give life. And yet, though he had come on such an errand and such a mission, we find there was no room for him.

When I went as a young man to Chicago, the Prince of Wales visited this country. There was great excitement in Chicago when it was noised abroad that he was to visit that city. The best hotel of the city was put at his disposal, the freedom of the city everywhere was offered to him, business was suspended, and every band of music in the city was engaged and other western cities sent up bands of music, bells were rung and cannon boomed. But when the Prince of Glory came down from yon world to this earth, and came on such an errand, what do we find? There was no room for him. Some of you say, "Perhaps, if they had known who he was they would have given him a royal welcome." But when, a few months afterwards, wise men from the East came and inquired, "Where is he that is born the King of the Jews?" and it was told that he was born in Bethlehem, not only Herod, but all Jerusalem, was troubled that he had come, and Herod sent down to Bethlehem and had all the male children under two years old put to death. But you say he had not proclaimed his mission. But after he had been baptized, and the Voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," and he had performed some miracles, he went into the synagogue, and the minister handed him the parchment roll of the prophecy of Isaiah, and he found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And when he began to preach to them from that text they took him out of the synagogue, and to the brow of the hill, and would have hurled him into perdition if they could.

I have often tried to picture the feelings of the Son of God as he stood outside the walls of Nazareth, rejected by the townspeople and by his own relatives because it is said in one place even his brethren did not believe on him. What must have been the sense of loneliness that came over him, as he left his own town not to return again. He went to Capernaum, and they flocked from all the towns and villages, and even from Jerusalem, to hear his mighty sermons and wonderful parables. He healed all that needed healing, and that town suddenly became famous, but it was not long before it became too hot for him at Capernaum. In Jerusalem, his own city, his Father's house was it never welcome. We never hear of Jerusalem giving him the freedom of the city. No prophet like him has ever taught in that temple as he taught. He had taught them the pure doctrine of heaven, and taught as no man had ever taught before or since. The Jews never heard such a prophet. He had come to set them free, to bring life and immortality to light; he had come to tell them the way back to the Father, but as a nation they rejected him. You cannot find a town or city after he had preached three years that wanted him. Great crowds at first flocked to hear him, but it was not long before there was but a little handful of poor despised disciples.

In one place, at one time, many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. In one place, it is said,

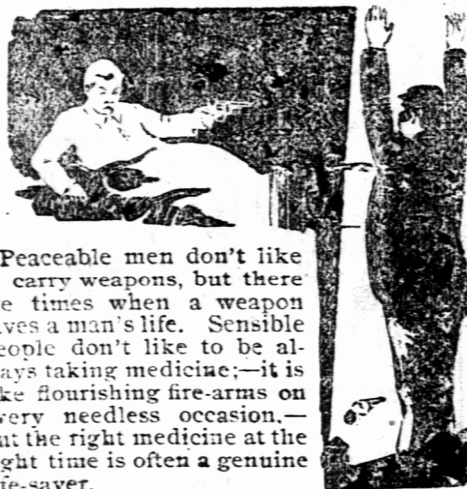
every man went to his own house, and Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. He did not have a house, he never owned a house. His bed was Olivet, his pillow the sod, and on one of these occasions you hear that pathetic sentence, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." He that was rich became poor for your sake and mine, his cradle a borrowed one, his guest-chamber, where he instituted the Lord's supper, a borrowed one, and the only time he ever rode was on a borrowed beast. His grave was a borrowed one. He who was with God when the morning stars sang together, became poor for your sake and mine.

It is easy to stand here and condemn those Jews for not giving him a royal welcome, but I want to ask a question: Have the times gotten any better? Do you suppose this world wants the Son of God to-day any more than when he was on the earth? Probably there is no place on this earth where the Gospel of the Son of God has been preached as faithfully as in America, and yet does America want him? Would they give him a royal welcome and make room for him? I don't think so. It is the same spirit that is in the world to-day as when he was on the earth. People talk about the world getting better, but if it were put to the popular vote to ask Jesus Christ to come back to this world, and reign as King as he reigns in glory, and the will of God be done down here as it is done in heaven, do you believe he would carry any state in this Republic? Would he carry a single county, or ward, or precinct in the whole land? I do not believe he would. The fact is, there is no room for the Son of God.

As Christ went from village to village, and city to city, the truth must have dawned upon him, again and again, that he was not wanted. Some one has said that if truth could be embodied, the world would fall down and worship it. Then, why did they not worship Christ? He is the truth embodied.

There was no room for Christ, and I want to say to Christian people here that I read Rev. xxi. 22, etc., and John xiv. just now to bring out this thought, that if we forget him he is not going to forget one of his disciples.

A few months before that storm swept Christ to Calvary, I can imagine one day, when he was in the Temple preaching, a woman from Bethany came there, her heart full of enmity and prejudice against Christ; she had never heard a word about that Galilean Prophet that was not against him. All her friends believed that he was an impostor.



Peaceable men don't like to carry weapons, but there are times when a weapon saves a man's life. Sensible people don't like to be always taking medicine; it is like flourishing fire-arms on every needless occasion, but the right medicine at the right time is often a genuine life-saver.

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a deceiver. But here was a great crowd, and some One teaching and she inquired who it was speaking, and they told her it was Jesus of Nazareth. "Well," she said to herself, "I would like to listen for a few minutes, I would like to know if he is a deceiver." I can imagine, as she stood there that day listening, that something like this came from his lips: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden; and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." And as she listened, Martha would say to herself, "I never heard anything so sweet from the rabbi, or Sadducees, or Pharisees; that man must be a teacher from above; it is the long looked for Messiah." Her prejudices were away, and when the crowd had dispersed, she said to herself, "I believe I will ask him to Bethany. Lazarus does not believe in him, and Mary is prejudiced against him, and some of my life-long friends will cut my acquaintance, but I am going to ask him." She never did so unpopular a thing in her life. But she said to him, "Will you come to Bethany and be my guest?"

Of course, Christ accepted Martha's invitation to Bethany, and I can imagine that, at that first interview, Lazarus at first was a bit skeptical, and perhaps scolded Martha, but that first evening prejudice and unbelief fled away, and after he was gone they thanked Martha for bringing him there. From that time there was always a warm welcome for him at Bethany, and oh, what days they must have spent together; they were always glad to see him.

But there is a dark cloud hanging over that home in Bethany. Martha did not see it, Mary did not know it, and it did not dawn upon Lazarus, but it soon burst. One day Lazarus came in with his hand on his forehead, and said, "I have a headache," and was a little feverish. Only a few months before the father and mother had been swept away by fever. A physician comes out from Jerusalem, and does what he can, but at last says there is no hope. Mary and Martha go out of the room, and say, "Doctor, what do you think of Lazarus?" He says, "I am sorry to tell you Lazarus cannot live." Then the first question is, "Where is Jesus?" When Jonathan Edwards was dying, he said, "Where is my old friend, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Martha and Mary believed Christ would come when he heard Lazarus was sick.

The messenger is gone. He goes into the valley of Jordan to find him. But Lazarus dies; the sisters have gotten the last kiss, his eyes have closed in death, he has been prepared for burial. Martha and Mary take their last look at him, he is borne to the grave, and they come back to that home. Oh, how desolate! How sad! When some member of the family has gone, and the truth has dawned upon us that they will never come back again, it seems as though half the world has gone. Oh, how desolate that home was! One, two, three days and nights pass, and he does not come. On the third morning when the messenger returns, I can imagine the sisters saying to him, "Did you find him?" "Yes." "Where?" "Beyond the Jordan, where John used to baptize."

"What did he say?" "He said, 'the sickness is not unto death.' I see Martha looking at Mary, and there is a strange look in their faces. They did not want to let that messenger know there was unbelief in their hearts, but after he had gone, perhaps Martha says, 'Well, Mary, can it be possible that we have been deceived?' If it had been one of the ancient prophets, they would have known Lazarus died. Unbelief arose, and that always brings mid-night darkness. On the fourth day, about four o'clock in the afternoon, when the sun was going down behind the walls of Jerusalem, and throwing its shadows on the eastern slope, a little boy caught sight of Christ coming up out of the valley of the Jordan, and rushed into the kitchen, saying, 'He's coming.' Mary is in the drawing-room entertaining some friends from Jerusalem. Martha goes out and says, 'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' Thy brother shall rise again." "I know he will rise again," Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Was there ever a sweeter message on earth than that?—and Martha was the first one who ever heard it? If she had not made room in her home and heart, would she have heard it? The Master looked around and asked for Mary, and so they called her, saying, "Mary, the Master is come and calleth for thee." I hope he will call for every Mary here to-day. He is calling for every unsaved soul in the hearing of my voice. He calls for thee. I want you, men and women, to make room for him in your heart and he will come and abide with you.

(Continued on The Sixth Page.)

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