

TITLE

*The House of Obed-Edom*

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# THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM.

And the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. 2 Samuel 6:11b.

Moses probably built the Ark of the Covenant in obedience to God's command. It was a richly ornamented chest containing the tables of the law, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that had budded. To all outward appearances the Ark of the Covenant was only a box a little <sup>over</sup> ~~two~~ three feet long and a little <sup>over</sup> ~~two~~ feet wide, a box made out of a most durable wood, overlaid with gold, having the images of two angels on the top. This was the Ark that played such an important part in the wilderness wanderings and in the conquest of Canaan. In the battles of the conquest the Ark represented Jehovah, the God of the armies of Israel, and it finally became identified with the personal presence of Jehovah. Where ~~the~~ ark was, there was God. We can see the reverence that the people had for it when we look at the old temple where the ark was kept in the Holy of Holies. After the conquest of Canaan the Ark finally came to rest in the temple of Shiloh under the care of a priestly family claiming descent from Moses. During one of the wars with the Philistines the Ark was captured by the enemy but it seemed to only bring them trouble so they put in on a cart drawn by oxen and shipped it back to Israel. For a long time it remained in the house of Abinidab until David determined to remove it to his capital, Jerusalem. It is a familiar story how David did not follow the law in regard to transporting the Ark and instead of having it carried on poles by priests put it on an ox cart. The cart tipped and thinking that the Ark was going to fall Uzzah did that which man was forbidden to do--he touch<sup>ed</sup> the ark. He was struck dead on the spot. This so frightened David that he left the ark in the house of a man named Obed-Edom. For three months the Ark remained in this man's house and then" It was told king David, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God." When David heard this he went down and brought the ark to its final resting place in Jerusalem. But all the time the ark was there

## THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM And the Lord blessed Obededom and all his household. 2 Samuel 6:11b

### I. Introduction

#### A. The Ark

1. Description(??x2')
2. Significance
3. History

#### B. The Story

1. Shiloh
2. Abinidab
3. Obed-Edom

#### C. God blessed Obededom and all his household because God was present.

### II. Any home that is honored by the presence of God is sure to be blessed.

#### A. We folks in the country and villages have great advantages over our city brothers.

1. Description of the "The Block."
2. Privacy necessary for a home.
3. Every family should have something that distinguishes it from every other family, something that is distinctively its own possession.

#### B. God never looks at the house when He goes into a home.

1. We have no description of Obedshouse
2. If you want God, he will come into the poorest house or the richest mansion.
3. Some blessings that come.
  - a. Peace & Rest(Farfromthemadding)
  - b. Security
  - c. Joy

### III. How can we have the presence of God in our homes?

#### A. We must have a desire for God

#### B. Family worship

#### C. Recognizing that God is our unseen Guest

#### D. Stive to always have the best in our homes

1. The best to read
2. The best to see
3. The best to hear

"The Lord blessed Obadiah and all his household." The true significance of this is seen only when we remember that for those people the ark represented the actual presence of God. God blessed Obadiah and all his household because God was in his house. You recall the story of the widow who was blessed because she housed the prophet of the Lord. You recall how Jesus blessed all of the homes into which he went. Wherever God is there is blessing. And the Lord blessed Obadiah and all his household.

Any home that is honored by the presence of God is sure to be blessed. For that matter God must be present to make any place a home. We folks in the country and the villages have great advantages over our city brothers when it comes to having a home. In the <sup>large</sup> city they have many houses but few homes. When a great many families are cooped up under one roof they are given shelter from bad weather and a place to hang their hats but that is all. No house is big enough for more than one family. I have lived in a so-called apartment house where there were two windows at the front and two at the back so that the only light that reached the middle rooms was from an air-shaft and I know the varied noises and smells that descend and ascend one of those contrivances. We shared our back yard with twenty-four other families. To be sure it was a large back yard but then there were a lot of occupants. We shared our back porch with another family in theory, but in reality with six families. We could not go out on our front porch without having to endure the company of the family next door, and what is more the porch was so close to the street that we felt like the exhibits in a side show. Six of us used the same cellar. Our coal bin was on the back porch and held the immense amount of two tons of coal. Our front hall was the common property of two other families and when the girl upstairs quarrelled with the young gentleman who had seen her home we heard all about it, first hand. A home cannot develop under such conditions. Privacy is one of the essentials of a home because this leads to individuality. Under the

circumstances that I have described it is easy to ~~see~~ <sup>see</sup> that there can be no privacy and consequently very little individuality. We should not be poured in the same molds. Every family should have something that distinguishes it from every other family, something that is distinctively its own possession. The tendency in the cities is to make every family alike, to have them think the same things, do the same things, enjoy the same things. Every day we ought to thank our heavenly Father that we have the opportunity to have homes and to develop a distinctive family life. Let us build homes rather than houses.

God never looks at a house when he goes in <sup>to</sup> a home. Do you notice that we have no description of Obadiah's house? We have no description of the house of Lazarus in Bethany, for that matter, but it was a very dear place to Christ. God does not look at the assessor's valuation to see whether or not He will enter. God does not look to see whether we live in a palace or in a humble cottage, but whenever the door is open He goes into a home. God ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> looking for something more valuable than fine furniture, more lasting than silver, more durable than the finest <sup>linen</sup> ~~china~~, more beautiful than the most exquisite China, <sup>more</sup> beautiful than the rarest Persian rug. If you want God he will come into the poorest house or the richest mansion. Do you WANT Him? Obadiah could have shut the door. It was dangerous to have that ark in the house. Did not poor Uzzah just get killed by touching it? Obadiah's house was small and the ark would take up too much room. Mrs. Obadiah might have thought that it would gather dust and then she would not dare touch it to remove the dust! Take the ark to the neighbor's, don't stop here. To be sure the ark would have found a resting place somewhere. Silas Marner said, "When a man turns a blessing from his door, it falls to them as take it in." But Obadiah took in the ark and the Lord blessed ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> whole household. There are certain blessings that are sure to be found if God is in the home.

The first of these blessings to my way of thinking is peace and



rest. Home should be a shelter for frazzled nerves rather than a place that furnishes irritation to these nerves. In Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard there is the famous line: "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife." That is the description of a home where God is. Far from the madding crowd. The sense of God's presence brings a quiet peacefulness that cannot be duplicated. There are many reasons why God's presence gives a home this peaceful rest. The feeling itself defies description and cannot be analyzed. A stranger feels it as soon as he steps inside the door. If that presence is not there the visitors sense it no matter how much the members of the family talk about their piety. We have all gone into homes that were nothing but hubbub and confusion and from these Babels we have gone to other homes that were living examples of the peace that can come to a soul. A peaceful home is not a gloomy home, the members of the family are not cussedly pious, neither are they edgy towards each other, nor is there continual strife..

The second blessing that the presence of God brings to a home is security. Some homes seem to hang by a thread and the least jar threatens to break the thread. These homes have no foundation at all. Others homes have a foundation but, as Jesus said, it is built of sand. When the storms come and the winds blow, and the tempests rage, that home is in danger of falling. Then there are other homes that are built on a rock. These are secure. When a home is founded built on God nothing can shake it. God is the one eternal and dependable thing. Houses may fall, fortunes may be lost, charm may vanish but God remains.

Joy is the third blessing that the presence of God brings. How could there be anything besides joy in a home that has the peace of God and the security of God? This joy that God brings is permanent joy. There is so much joy that depends on some new thrill or novelty. The new piano brings joy for a while. A new piece of furniture lasts for a time. The Victorrola is a source of pleasure for a few weeks. A party relieves monotony. But these things do not last. There are many sorrowful people

in the world because they have not found out the fact that they must rest the foundation of their joy on something that is permanent, and that cannot be destroyed by circumstance. If you depend on physical pleasure for your joy the chances are that you will end life as a sour old cynic. When the joy of your home depends on the peace that is there, and on the security that is there, and on the presence of God that brings these things, although sorrow may come it will not prevail. Even in the midst of heartbreak there will be an undercurrent of irrepressible joy. Jesus had sorrow after sorrow come to him and yet he was a joyful man because his joy was founded on the sense of God.

How can we have the presence of God in our homes? In heathen lands when a household wants god they go to the shop and buy an image, bring it home and set in on the shelf. I wonder sometimes if when we join the church, or have the children baptised, we do not think that we take our image home with us. I am quite sure that very often we set in on the shelf and leave it there. We must have a desire for God before we can have God. Perhaps I am queer but I do not go very often to places where I feel that I am not wanted. At least I am not happy when I go. Strangely enough I have found others of the same opinion and I ~~shall~~ think that God feels the same way. He will not come if you do not want Him. But suppose we want Him, how can we make his Presence seem real.

First, by family worship. I care not how old fashioned I may seem I believe that every Christian family should acknowledge the presence of the Almighty by saying grace at the table and by having family prayers. Don't expect God to seem near if you never acknowledge his presence. Don't expect God to seem real if you never try to approach Him. Don't expect your children to want to worship God if you do not lead them. It is truly a glorious sight to see a family bow their heads before a meal and ask God to bless the food they are to eat and to thank God for His goodness. That food is being consecrated for God's temple. The house

of Obed-Edom was blest when the ark of the Lord was there. It is also a good thing to have the family gather for family prayers. Let a chapter be read from God's word, read carefully and thoughtfully, not hurridely. Let a prayer be offered, not a long eloquent prayer, but a short simple prayer for the day. There is no set rule for worship in the home. Make your few minutes helpful to your own household in your own way. One of the beauties of family worship is that it gives plenty of room for originality.