

Where Dweldest Thou?

"Where dweldest thou?" – John 1:38

Summary:

The disciples' question arose not from curiosity but from a loving desire to know Christ more intimately. Every believer longs for his presence because Christ alone is Deliverer, Helper, Guide, Comforter, and the source of spiritual life. Jesus welcomes sincere seekers with the invitation, "Come and see." He now dwells in heaven, in his Church, in the gathered sanctuary, and in the believer's heart by faith. Those who enjoy this indwelling should honour Christ's people and live carefully before their divine Guest.

Outline:

1. A desire for deeper acquaintance

The disciples seek Christ from loving regard rather than idle curiosity.

2. The believer's need of Christ

Christ is indispensable as Deliverer, Helper, Guide, Comforter, and Quickening Spirit.

3. The invitation to come and see

Jesus welcomes sincere seekers into closer knowledge and fellowship with himself.

4. The places where Christ dwells

He dwells in heaven, his Church, the sanctuary, and the hearts of believers.

5. The duty of the indwelt believer

Christians should honour his people and live in a manner pleasing to their divine Inhabitant.

Text

This question was posed to our Lord by two of John's disciples. One was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, while the identity of the other remains unknown; however, both were now following Jesus. Jesus then turned to them and asked, "What are you looking for?" They responded, "Rabbi, where do you live?"

Let's examine the principle behind the inquiry. It wasn't driven by curiosity, but by respect. Essentially, it signified, 'We want to know him better.' John had spoken highly of him, and they had just seen him; however, this only increased their longing for closer acquaintance rather than satisfying their curiosity.

This feeling is common to all those under divine grace, stemming from their love for Him. Love naturally desires proximity; separation brings pain, and distance is unbearable. Being close provides a joy that words cannot capture—just as light or heat cannot be fully expressed by the artist's paintbrush. Because of this, believers yearn to be with the Saviour. They ask, "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest" (Song of Solomon 1:7).

Their longing also comes from missing His presence. What can I do, asks the Christian, without him? He is my Deliverer, my Helper, my Guide, my Comforter. The earth can do better without the sun than I can without him, the Sun of righteousness. The body relies less on the soul than I rely on him, the Quickening Spirit. Who can shield me from the Law's condemnation? Who can ease my burdened conscience? Whose grace is enough for me—to sanctify me in prosperity, to sustain me in adversity, to enliven me in death?

"Oh, do not cast me away from your presence, nor take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11). I need to remain in the same space, the same house, the same room where you reside – "Where do you dwell?" But let's try to find an answer to this question.

"He saith unto them, Come and see."

They went and "saw where he lived." Generally, he had nowhere to rest his head. It's unlikely he owned a house at this point, probably just a rented or borrowed room. Yet, that humble lodging was made sacred and honoured!

Oh, to have seen a dwelling where Jesus lived! But where is he now? He is everywhere, yet he is not said to dwell everywhere. When we speak of dwelling in relation to him, it suggests preference and residing with joy.

First, he dwells in heaven, which is the designated place –indeed, it defines it. "Where I am, there shall my servants be." "Absent from the body, and present with the Lord."

Second, He resides within His Church, stating, "This is my rest forever; here I will dwell because I have desired it."

Third, He dwells in the sanctuary, promising, "In all places where I record my Name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee," and noting, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them." Here, His people have felt His presence and declared, "Surely God is in this place."

Fourth, He takes residence in the heart and refuses any other home you might offer. "My son," He says, "give me thy heart," and He gains what He seeks from every believer – Christ dwells in the heart by faith. Some may call this enthusiasm, but it is the

language of Inspiration. "Hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us."

Let us avoid hurting or disrespecting a Christian; I respect and honour him. He is a palace for the Prince of Peace and a temple of the Lord of all. I admire Immanuel's condescension and kindness, God with us.

If I am the resident here, I should not only rejoice in the honour and privilege, but also be diligent in fulfilling every duty I owe to such a noble Guest and divine Inhabitant. "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

This sermon is taken from William Jay's devotional, *Morning and Evening Exercises* (January 11, Morning), first published in 1854.