

11. The Heart Goes Home for Christmas.

“Always the heart goes home on Christmas Eve...
Goes silently across a continent, or mountains or the sea.
A heart will leave the glitter of a city street, and sent,
By something deep and timeless, find the way
To a little cottage on a country hill.
And even if the cottage may have disappeared,
Your heart will find it still.” (author unknown).

Almost everyone wants to go home for Christmas. There may be extra time and expense involved, but it is certainly worth it, to bring the family together. No one tries any harder to make it happen than Mom and Dad.

And this is what Christmas is all about – coming home! God, who so loved the world, went far beyond the limits of human comprehension to bring us home to Himself.

Have you ever been homesick? It is a vexing feeling and yet there is something warm and meaningful about it. We are reminded of better days. So it is in the realm of the spirit. There will be moments in our lives when we will be homesick for God. Deep within our hearts there is a hunger which all the trinkets and pleasures of this world can never satisfy. As C.S. Lewis put it, “If I have longings and desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

I remember a time in my life when I found church to be dull and irrelevant. But I was still conscious of a hunger for something more than this world could offer. I believe now that God placed eternity in my heart, and I was only cheating myself when I tried to live apart from Him. I found that the same God who created me in his image could meet my deepest needs.

Certainly, there is no other time of the year when so many memories of home and childhood are awakened in our hearts, as at Christmas. Perhaps you can remember the innocent faith you had then, in contrast to the cynicism and carnality of our world today. Perhaps your heart is sighing – “If I could pray like a child again beside my mother's knee. Recall the prayer that I uttered there, and from my sin set free.”

G.K. Chesterton called Bethlehem, “The place where God was homeless and where all mankind can be at home.” When Christ came that first Christmas, there was no room for him in the Inn. But because He came, Heavens door is now open wide, that whosoever will may come.

It's a wonderful experience to arrive home. Some of us have been away too long. But, no one who is capable of homesickness should ever be lost for long. Right now, God is waiting for you to COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.