

**SERMONS
PREACHED IN A
VILLAGE CHURCH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649702138

Sermons Preached in a Village Church by F. J. Middlemist

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

F. J. MIDDLEMIST

**SERMONS
PREACHED IN A
VILLAGE CHURCH**

Sermons
Preached in a Village Church

BY
F. J. MIDDLEMIST, M.A.,
CURATE OF BRIGHSTONE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
W. E. HEYGATE, M.A.,
RECTOR OF BRIGHSTONE.

London:
SKEFFINGTON & SON, 163, PICCADILLY.
—
1885.

100.f.247

Introduction.

It seems to me that sermons have, during my life-time, retrograded in accuracy of thought and language, in reverence, and in Scriptural quotation; particularly in Scriptural illustration. A common anecdote too often takes the place of exemplification from the lives and actions of the Patriarchs and the Saints of the Old Testament. On the other hand, they have improved in simplicity of language and metaphor, in sympathy with the character and feelings of the people addressed, and in freedom. They are not sufficiently doctrinal, but they are fairly practical. Why should not practice rest on the sure foundation of great truths; that is, upon dogma?

Should sermons still be published when so many are preached, and the people are saturated with pulpit exhortations?

Well, there are always some persons who like to *read* sermons, and it is well to supply them with wholesome reading. As long as Kingsley and Robertson, on the one hand, are appreciated, and on the other, Newman, Keble, Pusey, and Liddon, no volume of sermons can be expected to attain a high place; but then, if only the highest are to be published, it may be said that only the highest can be listened to. There must be a place for moderate preachers—or what should I do?—and, therefore, there must be a place for moderate sermons, published as well as preached.

The average mind does not appreciate the highest, and yet has its needs. The demand of the greatest number is not for the highest, and their demand has a just claim for satisfaction.

The merit of this little volume, which does not come up to my theory of Scriptural illustration and enrichment, is that it meets the feelings and needs of the many, without stooping to their weakness. It has no flowery false imagery, no "padding," as it is called by Reviewers, nothing *ad captandum*. The preacher is calm, truthful, earnest. He knows, and which is better *feels*, the difficulties of his fellow-mortals. He reaches out a hand to them. They cannot well deny what he says, nor can they feel aggrieved by it. He is not too high for them. He does not perceptibly stoop to their level, but by sympathy and experience he is so nearly on their level that he can grasp their hand and lift them on to a ledge higher up. I hope, therefore, that these sermons, most of which I have heard in this church, will be valued beyond our contracted limits, and will do a good work.

W. E. HEYGATE.

Brighton,
Isle of Wight.

Contents.

	PAGE.
SERMON I.	
<i>AN ADVENT QUESTION.</i>	
(ADVENT.)	
S. LUKE XVIII. 8.	
"When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"	1
SERMON II.	
<i>LET US ALONE.</i>	
(ADVENT, OR END OF YEAR.)	
S. MARK I. 24.	
"Let us alone."	8
SERMON III.	
<i>THE SALVATION OF GOD.</i>	
(LENT, OR GENERAL.)	
S. LUKE III. 6.	
"All flesh shall see the salvation of God."	17

SERMON IV.

CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

(LENT, OR GENERAL.)

EPHESIANS V. 8.

"Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light."

27

SERMON V.

A SAVING SIGHT.

(GOOD FRIDAY.)

ZECHARIAH XII. 10.

"They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced."

37

SERMON VI.

NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL.

(EASTER-TIDE.)

1 CORINTHIANS XV. 44.

"There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

47

SERMON VII.

THE HOLY GHOST.

(WHITSUNTIDE.)

2 TIMOTHY I. 14.

"The Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

54

SERMON VIII.

THE CRY OF FAITH.

(TRINITY SUNDAY.)

S. MARK IX. 24.

"Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." 63

SERMON IX.

THE ANGELS OF GOD.

(S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, OR GENERAL.)

S. LUKE XV. 10.

"There is joy in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." 71

SERMON X.

PRAISE.

(GENERAL.)

PSALM LVI. 4.

"I will praise God because of His Word." 81

SERMON XI.

OUR FATHER.

(GENERAL.)

S. MATTHEW VI. 9.

"Our Father." 90

SERMON XII.

GOD IS LOVE.

(GENERAL.)

1 JOHN IV. 16.

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in
God, and God in him," 101

SERMON XIII.

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

(GENERAL.)

S. LUKE XVII. 17.

"Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" 110

SERMON XIV.

A MIXED RELIGION.

(GENERAL.)

2 KINGS XVII. 33.

"They feared the Lord, and served their own gods." 119

SERMON XV.

THE DAILY ROUND.

(GENERAL.)

PSALM CIV. 23.

"Man goeth forth to his work and to his labour until
the evening," 129