

May 26, 2019 (Easter 6 C)

Jn.14.23-29

“The World’s Greatest HOME-Maker”

I don’t think it’s possible for our limited human brains to comprehend or understand ALL the things that God does / the different jobs and roles that He has. Typically we describe our Triune Lord as: **Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier** – and that’s good, but it hardly captures everything He does. Today we’re going to talk about an interesting, deep, and profound role that our Lord has:

Homemaker. *How could you describe God as a Homemaker?* Well . . . it just sort of struck me as I examined this text:

John 14:23-29 (EHV)

23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 The one who does not love me does not hold on to my words. The word that you are hearing is not mine, but it is from the Father who sent me.

He promises to come and make His HOME with us. Our God is not *distant* from us, He’s right here *with* us – in our hearts and in our homes. And, He tells us **how** He is present: through His WORD / His teachings / the doctrine of Scripture that stands together as a unit. When we discover who Jesus is, how much He loves us, what His sacrifice means for us – we can’t help but love Him back (as Jesus pointed out). If we love Him; we’ll listen to His words. If we study / hear / take to heart / treasure / respect His words and the teachings God has handed down to us in Holy Scripture . . . then His **presence** is right here *with* us. Christ has been called “The WORD” – He and His teachings are **one**. This is not mere “knowledge” as we generally think of it – HIS WORD is living and active / powerful and alive / producing real results in our hearts and lives. He and His Father and the Holy Spirit are **one**. That Triune Lord lives in and with His people – giving them wisdom, grace, power and instruction – everything they need to know as they face all the challenges of life. He makes His HOME *with* us – in a spiritual, profound, and very real way.

We also know that, for 33 years, He made His HOME with us human beings in a very **physical**, profound, and real way. I think it’s rather ironic, that when Jesus was physically among us, He was essentially home-less. Home was wherever He went and wherever

His disciples followed Him. They loved Him and didn’t want Him to leave them. But – He had to go. He had a cross to face. He had a battle to fight and win. He had an Enemy to defeat – *our* Enemy (Satan, and death itself). He had to then return to heaven and His visible / physical presence has been taken from us. So, He would send the Holy Spirit and God’s personal presence would remain with us (His people) until He either takes us home or comes again:

25 I have told you these things while staying with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you. [That promise was kept when John, as an old man, penned the final “Amen” of Revelation 22 there on the island of Patmos.]

27 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, [in other words: distressed / confused / disturbed] **and do not let it be afraid.** [literally: cowardly / timid / fearful] **28 You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’** [from then on He would be with us in a different way] **If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens so that, when it does happen, you may believe.”** [They would see how God keeps all of His promises.]

The disciples, who first heard these words in person, would have some seriously difficult days ahead. God’s people, down through time, who would hear these same words read from Scripture, would also have to face difficult days of their own. But, God (through His Word) continues to comfort, to forgive, to bless, to guide, to empower them to face anything life could throw at them. Believers are champions because God has come and made His HOME with us. You can **not** put a price tag on what our Triune God – the **world’s greatest Homemaker** – has done (and continues to do) for all those who love and trust in Him.

In the past 60-70 years, here in North America, the whole concept of a “homemaker” has taken a serious beating. It’s not seen as *real* work since a paycheck isn’t attached to it. Women are under tremendous pressure (financially and culturally) to work outside the home. So, everything else important about family life has to be squeezed into the cracks and often suffers because husband and wife just don’t have the time and energy to make their house the type of

home they want it to be. There's a lot of guilt, stress, and frustration that accompanies our modern societies' view of family. And, children often suffer and pay the highest price – especially when the whole family unit breaks down and falls apart.

But – *that's by FAR not the worst of it!* That's just a symptom of a far greater problem: in the past 60-70 years there has been a huge drift AWAY from God; away from the world's GREATEST

Homemaker – people have refused to let Him come and make His home among them, or include Him in their family at all. And – this brings horrible, painful, and destructive consequences to the families of our nation. The teachings of God's Word (that bring His presence into our homes) have been twisted / denied / edited / butchered / neglected / ridiculed / and sometimes flushed down the toilet. Sadly, our Triune Lord has been (sometimes violently) kicked out of the home. What follows is pain, conflict, selfishness, emptiness, chaos and eventually hell.

And – this is not just affecting homes where Christ has been totally pushed away and His truth completely abandoned. The stress, conflict, fear, anger, tension and discontentment that **we ALL have** (to one degree or another) in our hearts and in our homes is PROOF that our love for God and our obedience to His Word can be very shallow indeed. The Word of God itself makes it painfully clear how selfish, petty and worldly WE (as modern disciples) can often be. We may head home from church on Sunday . . . *and completely forget that HE goes home with us!* At least, it can certainly appear that way, by how we speak and act toward one another behind the closed doors of our homes.

Thankfully, He doesn't walk away from our homes in disgust. He rolls up His sleeves and gets to WORK on us! The "cleaning" He does on our spiritual homes is our regular lives of repentance. He tackles the "cobwebs" of our laziness / He roots out the "spiders" of our greed / He swats the filthy "flies" of our envy and jealousy that buzz all over the place / He squashes the "cockroaches" of our selfishness / He kills and removes the "rats" of our anger and hatred that somehow keep finding their way into our spiritual homes. He dusts every nook and cranny and disinfects every surface . . . leaving us totally clean and spotless.

And . . . you know how it is; it doesn't take long before our homes become a disaster again. Thank God for your ***Spiritual***

Homemaker – who never gives up and who continues to graciously bear with you and clean you up – over and over and over again. He doesn't get paid a dime for all this work; He does it all because He loves you – that's it.

He's also got grand and great PLANS for your spiritual homes – and at those times when things seem totally upside down in your life, HE'S right there (with sleeves rolled up) ready to get to work. "*Oh no!*" (*we groan*) when we come home and there's sheets covering all the furniture and our Lord says (if you will) "It's time to paint!" And we whine, "*I hate painting! Wasn't it fine the way it was? I don't have the energy for this / I don't want to do this!*" Come on my child (He says) I know you weren't expecting this and don't want to have to deal with this challenge, but let's get to work here; I've got beautiful plans for your life!

Those types of inconvenient challenges we must face in life are one thing . . . but there can be days when we cry out in shock and grief: "*God – what are you doing! You knocked out the entire back wall of my house! WHY??*" Well . . . those are the times of major renovation. And, while we may just want to curl up in a heap and cry (as we look at the horrible destruction, and see the raccoons wandering through the living room) – He, often, will pick us up and put us to work. "*Let's go to the hospital . . . let's plan the funeral . . . come on, people need you, pull yourself together.*" Somehow, He gets us on our feet, and helps us go forward. It might take years, but when the project is completed, your Lord has done amazing things to your spiritual home. You may very well be able to look back on your lives, and see how God worked out His wonderful plans through the most painful of those spiritual renovations.

Beautiful things happen in the lives of people where God, ***the world's Greatest Homemaker*** is present. We realize that He really DOES keep all of His promises, even when His plans are very different from *our* plans. He rubs off on us (more and more through life as we walk with Him) and we too realize how much better it is to **serve** than it is to *be served*. Go ahead (as Jesus said) and cling to His Word / treasure it / grow in it / love it / share it . . . and . . . all the while know that HE is hanging on to you. Your Triune God has made His **home** with you – and that puts everything in life in perspective, and gives you the strength to face anything and everything that could possibly cross your path.

