

GREAT RESOLUTIONS

Program Seven

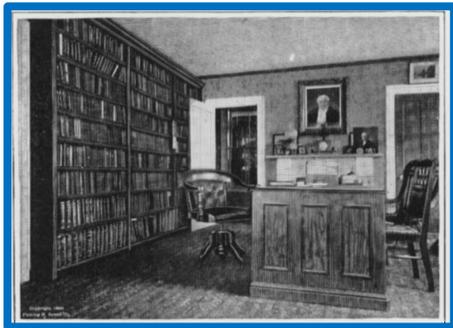
Moody's Relationships

What was it that made D. L. Moody the man he was? It is easy to observe a person's work and accomplishments and then think that we know that person. But a truer picture can be seen if we look at a person's attitudes, relationships and daily living. In this way that we can find the roots of a person's living and work. In this program, therefore, we will take another glimpse into the life of D. L. Moody. We will consider his daily life and his attitude toward several matters.

His Relationships

All Ages and All Classes

Moody was related to many people from many different backgrounds, from presidents to prisoners. Abraham Lincoln visited his Sunday school and President Grant attended one of his revival meetings. However, in general Moody endeavored not to show preference to those of the higher social class, and he had a tender heart especially for the needy urban class and common folks.



Moody's Study

Moody cultivated a love for those in the neighborhoods and cities where he labored. He served without respect of persons and felt that it was valuable for those who serve the Lord to be able to serve all age groups. He would walk about towns and speak to men, women and children, endeavoring to draw all classes of people to Christ. In the beginning of his Christian service, Moody was quite involved with working with children. He started his own mission school, which grew to

have approximately 1500 children, many of whom Moody knew personally. He visited them in their homes, where he also became acquainted with their parents. Moody said, "The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy." This is how he brought the gospel to many.

Emma Moody

Moody's most significant relationship was with his wife, Emma. She was a fellow teacher with the young people in Chicago. She became his lifetime fellow-laborer and as Moody said, "the best wife God ever



Emma and Dwight (Ages 21 and 27)

gave to a man." She was a true helper to Moody. She offered him wise counsel, and being more educated, she was able to assist him greatly in his work. They had warm fellowship together, sharing the same faith and spirit of self-sacrifice, especially after the loss of their home twice through fire. She was also a good balance to his impetuous nature. Together, they raised three children. Although quite busy with his work, Moody felt his responsibility to his family was one that he could not neglect.

Coworkers

In his service Moody, a tireless worker with a great capacity, sought to be effective. Although he sometimes measured his work by numbers, he also felt that small numbers make no difference to God as long as God is in it. Moody was practical, yet intense in his service. He learned to put away

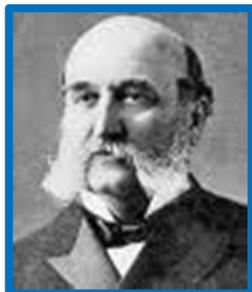
discouragement, and he never lost the taste for soul-winning. Moody found that the 'reward for service is more service.' Therefore he realized that to be truly effective in his service, he needed to serve together with others. Some of his coworkers he raised up were the boys he initially gained on the street. He became a pattern to others in his living and service. When he began to serve, he was willing to do everything from being the janitor to the superintendent. Eventually, he was involved in a wide range of matters from serving at the YMCA prayer groups, raising funds and building buildings, to establishing schools. Moody was also burdened to awaken other believers to their responsibility of bringing people to salvation. He hoped many would lead at least one person to Christ each year. Like Paul, Moody endeavored to commit to faithful ones the things he had received from the Lord so that they would be competent to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2). He therefore pleaded with ones to simply be faithful. As Paul pointed out in First Corinthians, faithfulness is the one thing sought in stewards (4:2).

Soldiers

During the years of the Civil War, Moody served the Union soldiers in the field. Although a conscientious objector himself, Moody still found his way to the front lines in order to share the gospel, distribute Bibles and Christian literature, and visit the sick and wounded. Moody impressed upon the soldiers that it was 'now or never,' mostly now! He witnessed ones who died confessing Christ.

Ira Sankey

For many years Moody's partner in service was the singer Ira Sankey. Sankey wrote many gospel hymns and sang them at the many evangelistic meetings. His most famous hymn and one that has been much used by the Lord, is *The Ninety and Nine*. On the way to a revival meeting with Moody, Sankey



clipped a poem from a newspaper containing these stanzas. Moody was surprised when Sankey, being asked for a hymn, just took these lyrics and with prayer made up a tune there on the spot. Some felt that Sankey was nearly as effective in gospel preaching by song as Moody was in speaking. When Moody was asked what he felt was the primary contribution of these gospel songs, he replied, "If we can only get people to have the words of the love of God coming from their mouths it's well on its way to residing in their hearts." Later they published the Moody-Sankey hymn book.

Brothers and Sisters

Besides his wife and Ira Sankey, Moody had others along the way who assisted him greatly in his service. It was through an older sister, Sarah Cooke, who was burdened to pray and fellowship with Moody, that he sought the anointing power of the Spirit for his service. She and others served by praying, and many others served by giving. Although to Moody the small offerings were just as precious as the larger ones, there were a few brothers, like Cyrus McCormick, the inventor of the reaper, who were burdened to offer strong financial support for his work. Moody also found mentoring and companionship in brothers such as the famous London preacher, Charles Spurgeon and the praying orphan overseer, George Muller.

Moody was helped by his wife to stay open and to keep receiving from other believers. One such example was that of Henry Moorehouse, known as the "Boy Preacher in London." Although a bit reluctant at first, through his wife's persuading,



Moody went to hear Moorehouse preach when he visited Chicago. Upon hearing him and seeing the results, Moody was greatly influenced. Contrary to Moody's usual way of preaching judgment, Moorehouse told sinners of God's great love for them. He also strongly used the Bible. This touched Moody to tears

and caused him to change the way of his preaching. From then on Moody preached to open the heart of Christ to people. He said, "If you want to get hold of an audience, aim at the heart; and there is nothing that will warm up the heart like the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

College Students

Moody also conducted student conferences at his Northfield, Massachusetts base, which had a great impact on the Christian lives of those on the campuses. These times led to the establishing of the Student Volunteer movement for foreign missions in the late 1800s. Moody also had some influence on university students in England. One group, known as the "Cambridge Seven" stunned their peers when they laid aside their lives of privilege and position to become

missionaries in China with Hudson Taylor. C. T. Studd, one of the group and a famous soccer player, said, "If



Jesus be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." This example of such wholehearted consecration inspired other young people to follow the Lord in a serious way.

Attitude toward Division

Although Moody loved the believers among whom he labored, he realized that because of division among themselves the testimony to the world was being hindered. Moody exclaimed, "Our weakness has been in our division; and what we need is that there should be no schism or division among those who love the Lord Jesus Christ. There can be no real separation or division in the true Church of Christ; they are redeemed by one price, and indwelt by one Spirit."

Moody was not satisfied to hear that Christians got on well with each other by not having anything to do with each other. Although he could see the problem, Moody did not really see much of a solution. He

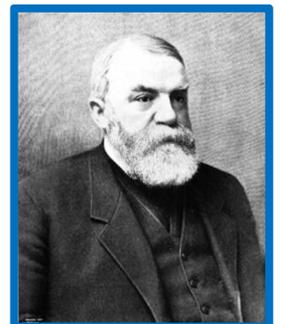
hoped for unity, but there was no view for a practical working out of the oneness of the Body of Christ. He could only hope that on earth the believers could have a foretaste of the next age when all the "party names will be left behind us when we leave this earth." He sighed, "Oh, that the Spirit of God may speedily sweep away all these miserable walls that we have been building up."

Moody said, "Did you ever notice that the last prayer Jesus Christ made on earth, before they led Him away to Calvary, was that his disciples might all be one? He could look down the stream of time, and see that division would come – how Satan would try to divide the flock of God. Nothing will silence infidels so quickly as Christians everywhere being united. Then our testimony will have weight with the ungodly and the careless. But when they see how Christians are divided, they will not believe their testimony. The Holy Spirit is grieved; and there is little power where there is no unity."

Moody took this matter seriously saying, "If I thought I had one drop of sectarian blood in my veins, I would let it out before I went to bed; if I had one sectarian hair in my head, I would pull it out. Let us get right to the heart of Jesus Christ; then our prayers will be acceptable to God, and showers of blessing will descend." Today we are still dealing with sectarianism among believers, but the Lord has shown us that we do not need to wait until the next age. The Lord's prayer for oneness in John 17 is practically being worked out and visibly being made known so that the world can see and believe.

Conclusion

Moody labored faithfully to the end toward His coming Lord. He said, "The work is great, the time is short, but the strength is not of man but of God." When asked what was the secret of his success, Moody replied, "For many years I have never given an address without the consciousness that the Lord may come before I



have finished.” This may well explain the intensity of his service and the zeal of his ministry for Christ.

Marty Robert and Bill Lawson

References:

Dorsett, Lyle. *A Passion for Souls*.
Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

Graver, Ray. *‘Lord... Thou Saidst’*
Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1981.

Moody, W. R. *The Life of Dwight L. Moody*.
Westwood: Barbour and Company, Inc., 1985.

Moody, D. L. *The Overcoming Life*.
Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.

Nee, Watchman. *Collected Works of
Watchman Nee*, vol. 2, ch. 1. Anaheim: Living
Stream Ministry, 1992.

Christian History Magazine, Issue 25
Carol Stream: Christianity Today Inc., 1990.