



Benedict and the Corn Thief

Adapted from *Miller House Stories*

Alta E. Schrock

Benedict Miller was a peacemaker, but he was not a passive man. Love, peace, and faith were action words for him. He not only resisted and confronted evil, but tried to save the wrongdoer and the situation, as well. Some of his methods for doing this were both ingenious and humorous, as you will see in this story.

Benedict had a corncrib in his springhouse loft, with a ladder or stairway leading to it. One day he began to notice that corn was missing. Day after day things grew worse, and finally Benedict decided to set a trap for the thief.

One morning while the Miller family was eating breakfast, they heard a shout from the direction of the corncrib. Hurrying out to investigate, Benedict saw a man at the entrance to the crib.

“Good morning!” called Benedict, “Do you need help?”

“Yes,” replied the man, “Could you loose me from this trap?”

“Oh, are you caught?” asked Benedict, innocently.

“Yes, I can’t get loose.”

“Well, I’ll let you go on one condition,” Benedict replied.

“What is that?” muttered the shamed visitor.

“I’ll let you go if you come in and eat breakfast with us.”

“I’m not hungry,” the man said.

“But that is the only way I will release you,” insisted Benedict.

“All right, I’ll come with you,” the man finally replied.

At the breakfast table, the family talked about all kinds of things—all things, that is, except the missing corn. When the guest finally left, after a hearty breakfast, he and Benedict were friends. No Miller corn was missing after that time.