

Lesson IX.

JESUS TELLS WHO ARE BLESSED

March 4, 1906

Matthew 5 : 1-16. Commit to memory vs. 3-6. Read Mark 3 : 13-19; Luke 6 : 12-26.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.—Matthew 5 : 8.

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into ¹a mountain : and when he ²was set, his disciples came unto him :

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they ³which do hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called ⁴the children of God.

10 Blessed are they ⁵which are persecuted for righteousness' sake : that they may be like unto their Father which is in heaven.

Revised Version—¹the; ²had sat down; ³that hunger; ⁴sons; ⁵that have been persecuted; ⁶reproach; ⁷Omit shall; ⁸its; ⁹Omit to be; ¹⁰Omit that is; ¹¹lamp; ¹²shine.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The King's Subjects, 1-12.
- II. The King's Witnesses, 13-16.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Jesus tells who are blessed, Matt. 5 : 1-16.
T.—Blessings in disguise, Luke 6 : 17-26. W.—Love and patience, Rom. 12 : 9-21. Th.—The way of blessing, Psalm 1. F.—Pure in heart, Psalm 119 : 1-8. S.—Blessing of purity, Psalm 32. S.—The eternal reward, Rev. 7 : 9-17.

EXPOSITION

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Time and Place—Summer of A.D. 28; according to tradition, the Horns of Hattin, a square shaped hill about 60 feet in height, with two tops, not far from Capernaum : possibly, the higher country away from the sea-coast.

Connecting Links—This Lesson, and the following, and the one for the first Sabbath of the Second Quarter, are taken from the Sermon on the Mount. A whole night spent in prayer on a mountain (Luke 6 : 12) preceded our Lord's choice of the twelve apostles, Luke 6 : 13-16. The Sermon was addressed to His disciples and the multitudes, who learning whither He had gone, came to Him.

I. The King's Subjects, 1-12.

Vs. 1, 2. *Seeing the multitudes.* See ch. 4 : 25. The crowds were drawn by the fame of Jesus' teaching and miracles. His work had been going on for more than a year. Matthew places the Sermon on the Mount so near the beginning of his Gospel to emphasize the position of Jesus as the Lawgiver of His kingdom. *He went up.* It seems that,

righteousness' sake : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall ⁶revile you, and persecute you, and ⁷shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad : for great ⁸is your reward in heaven : for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth : but if the salt have lost ⁹his savour, wherewith shall it be salted ? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and ¹⁰to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city ¹¹that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a ¹²candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a ¹³candlestick; and it ¹⁴giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 ¹⁵Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 8. How doth God execute his decrees ?* A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

The Question on Missions—9. What are the special features of the mission work in Quebec and Eastern Ontario ? In these sections French Roman Catholics are buying out the English speaking Protestants, thus weakening the fields ; and missionaries are required who can speak French and English.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 114* (Supplemental Lesson) ; 193 ; 189 ; 68 (Ps. Sel.) 587 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 197.

when the multitudes had gathered, our Lord, with the twelve newly chosen apostles, went down to meet them on a level place. Here (Luke 6 : 17-19) Jesus healed their sick and cast out demons. Now He ascends to a position higher up the hill, or towards the hill country (see Time and Place). *Had sat down* (Rev. Ver.) ; the usual attitude for an Oriental teacher. His seat may have been a stone or hummock. *Opened his mouth* ; an expression used to introduce an important utterance. *Taught* ; "began to teach."

Vs. 3, 4. *Blessed.* Christ begins His teaching, not with, "Thou shalt," nor with a warning, but with a promise of happiness. In the Beatitudes we have a description of the character which Jesus regards as ensuring true happiness, but, more than that, of the life that Jesus Himself lived. Happiness does not depend on outward circumstances, but springs from the inner life. *Poor in spirit.* Luke (ch. 6 : 20) says only "poor," those who, instead of trusting in themselves, trust in God. They feel their own need. In Christ's