

*Where?*—Let us see if our own country is the kingdom of God? Not long ago I passed a building with great, high stone walls about it, with heavy doors, with iron bars on the windows. I was told it was a prison where people who do not obey the laws are put. Then I saw two boys fighting on the street. I heard some children quarreling. "This cannot be the kingdom of God!" I thought. And any place in the whole world where we would go we should find it just the same,—God's laws being disobeyed by many people. So we see that there are many places in the world where God's kingdom cannot be found.

*Golden Text*—Jesus tells where it is,—  
"The kingdom of God is within you." God's laws are obeyed in your heart and life, and He rules in your heart. Your heart is the kingdom of God. And by and by, because the hearts of people have become God's kingdom, they will make the world they live in His kingdom too.

*The Coming of God's Kingdom*—Were you glad when the winter was over and spring came at last? Did you see spring coming? How did you know spring was here? You saw the flowers and grass appearing through the dark ground. You felt the spring air, the spring sunshine. So it is with the coming of God's kingdom in our hearts.

The Pharisees ask Jesus a question. (What?) Jesus tells them no one can see it coming. The Holy Spirit enters the heart, and the whole life, becomes changed. Our life then is different. We are glad and try to make others glad. We are watching and waiting for Jesus, and are ready for His coming.

*Ready*—Impress the thought of being ready to meet Jesus. What careful preparation we make to meet friends! Are we doing the things, saying just the words we would like Jesus to find us doing and saying? (Illustrations.)

*Where Do We Belong?*—A great emperor was one day playing with a little friend. He took her upon his knee, showed her an orange and asked her to what kingdom it belonged. "Vegetable," was the quick reply. He showed her a coin. "Mineral," came the answer promptly. "Now to what kingdom do I belong?" he asked. She did not like to say "Animal," and so looking up into his face, she sweetly replied: "You belong to the kingdom of God."

*Symbol*—A lighted candle, JESUS SEEKING THE READY.

*Our "Remember" Box*—The "thought" is, I SHOULD BE READY FOR JESUS' COMING.

### FROM THE PLATFORM

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Begin by getting the scholars to tell you what it was that the Pharisees in the Lesson asked Jesus about, and print the answer on the blackboard, THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Question about the ideas which the Jews had about this kingdom, that it was a great earthly kingdom which the Messiah was to set up amongst themselves and over which He was to rule, overcoming and destroying all the enemies of the Jews. Next, ask about what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God. The points to bring out are, that, in Jesus' thought, no earthly grandeur or might is necessary to the kingdom, but that it is to be found wherever there is even one human heart that loves and obeys Him, one human life that is striving to be like His. Make it very clear, that the kingdom of God belongs to the earth as well as to heaven, that one boy or girl can bring the kingdom into a home or school by giving his or her heart to Jesus.