

themselves to be imposed upon, who possess dignity and who are prepared to stand upon it, who have no uncomfortable longing for better things, who are never persecuted", His teaching would have been gladly accepted by the world. Show how wise and loving and true the unpopular Beatitudes which He did utter are, and what wonderful promises are attached to them.

3. *Beatitudes which appeal to everybody*, vs. 7, 8. The world is not too blind to see the beauty and truth of these Beatitudes. Even those who do not follow Christ acknowledge that a life lived in this way is a good life. Bring out the meaning of these Beatitudes, and try to lead the class to love this way of life. A distinguished literary man said, not long ago, that he was trying to live in a place where the blessing of God might fall upon his head. It is a good place in which to live.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Get the class thinking about the people who listened to Jesus when He uttered this discourse. Were the disciples the only ones who heard it? (See Exposition.) Picture the scene. The hilltop, Jesus seated in the midst of the disciples, the earnest expression on His face, the wonder on the disciples' faces, for these were thoughts new to them. Show the class that Jesus here gives His idea of what human society ought to be like, in:

1. *Its greatest desires*, vs. 3, 4, 6. What is it that reveals our character? Is it not our usual desires? Jesus pronounced those to be

happy indeed who found in their own hearts nothing to be proud about, nothing to be boastful about, but looked away from themselves and their achievements to God, longing to be like Him. Teach that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who desire it and look to God for it.

2. *Its unchanging character*, vs. 5, 7, 8. The "meek" are those who are quiet under wrong treatment because they know that God will overrule all things for their good. The "merciful" and the "pure in heart" are those who see God's true nature and try to be like Him. Make clear that this character is a continual blessing to those who have it. (See Acts 16 : 22-25.)

3. *Its constant occupation*, v. 9. Draw attention to the prevalence of strife everywhere in the world,—nations warring, man quarreling with man, beast with beast, and man with beast. There is great need for peacemakers, and Jesus calls those blessed who go in for this work. Does one need to give up his ordinary occupation to become a peacemaker? What was the best name by which King Edward VII. was known? "Edward the Peacemaker."

4. *Its unfailing loyalty to Christ*, vs. 10-12. Bring out one of the consequences of being a Christian (as made known in Matt. 10 : 16-18 ; Acts 9 : 1, 2, 22, 23). Show the final reward. Is all persecution in itself a blessing? When may we be sure it is a blessing?

Press home the questions, Are these blessings of Christ resting upon us? If not, why not?

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON III.]

Find the number 17 on the map (page 186) near the northern end of the lake, connected by a zigzag line with the large V. If you stand at the point of that V and look south-west over the space included between its arms, you see directly before you a grassy slope. Part way down the slope is an old reservoir. You can see six or seven miles down the lake, past a broad space of low, meadow-like shore, to a ridge of high hills. There is a curious break in the ridge almost exactly opposite where you stand—a break somewhat like the deep cuts that engineers make to let a railway through—and beyond that cut you can see

another high hill, with a summit that looks nearly flat. Palestine guides point out this hill to travelers as the Mount of the Beatitudes.

In the time of Jesus there was a town near this reservoir. Some scholars think it may have been Bethsaida, though more likely the Bethsaida where Peter and Andrew lived was farther up the lake.

You can see the very ground where some of the listeners to the Sermon on the Mount lived, if you use a stereograph entitled, Traditional Bethsaida, Sea of Galilee and the Mount of Beatitudes.