

Lesson IV.

TRUE BLESSEDNESS

January 23, 1910

Matthew 5 : 1-16—Memory Verses, 2-9.

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 a mountain : and when he was set, his disciples came unto him :

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

3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit : for their's 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 which 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 the children of God.

10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

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

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* 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 his savour, wherewith shall it be salted ? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One morning, after Jesus had spent the whole night praying on a mountain not far from Capernaum, His disciples came to Him, and He chose from amongst these, twelve men who were to be with Him always, and whom He called apostles. Soon after, the multitudes, finding out whither He had gone, came to Him, and He spoke to them the Sermon on the Mount.

In this sermon, Jesus told of eight ways, each beginning with the word "Blessed", in which people could learn to be truly happy and satisfied. First, the Saviour said, "if people wished to be happy, they must be humble, or "poor in spirit", for only the humble could belong to His kingdom. "And blessed are they that mourn", said the Saviour also, "for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst

after righteousness : for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

And Jesus told the listening people plainly that His followers would be hated in this world for His sake, but this should only make them glad because, if they proved faithful, a great reward was waiting for them in heaven. The holy men of old had also been treated in the same way.

And Jesus said also, that, as salt keeps food pure and fit for use, so Jesus' followers must always stand up for what is good and right. They must not be afraid to let their good deeds be seen and to let others know that