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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON OCTOBER 24TH

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That the King Requires, St. Matthew 5. Golden Text, St. Matt. 5: 48.

4. They That Mourn. Luke has Ye that weep." Peter, in his first Epistle (1: 6), speaks of those who have been put to grief in manifold temptations," in which their faith is tried and proved. Their mourning is the natural grief and sorrow of those who suffer loss or pain or affliction because of their adherence to the right, and, especially, in the service of Christ. For them there shall be comfort. There is no doubt, too, that the Lord would extend this comfort to all who mourn the loss of loved ones or share in loving sympathy the grief and pain of others. A prophet of the earlier age pronounces a well deserved doom upon those who "are not grieved for the affliction" of their nation (Amos 6: 6; compare Ezek. 9, -6). And an apostle enjoins the Christian folk who would follow Christ's example to "weep with them that weep" (Rom. 12: 15).

5. The Meek. The meek are those who do not seek their own good by trampling on others, who are careful of the rights and interests of others. Their spirit is just the opposite of the rancorous, the self-assertive, and the aggressive. The meek man will do much and will yield much, in things that are not essential, for the sake of peace, although in matters of principle he can be strong as adamant. He will be remembered that Moses has been called "meekest of men." Jesus calls an ancient promise that "the meek shall inherit the land" (Psalm 37: 11), a promise which assures us that the best of material blessings are not altogether for the selfish and the self-seeking.

6. They That Hunger and Thirst. This is a blessing for those who do not think themselves to be good, but who long for goodness with all the vigor of their souls. And they desire with the same longing that righteousness and justice may be established in the world, and are willing to give themselves in whole-hearted endeavor for such an end. The heart of the heavenly Father goes out to His hungry and thirsty children. They shall be filled.

7-9. The Merciful are the kind-hearted, the patient, the forgiving.

To the pure in heart is promised the vision of God, and to the peacemakers, that they shall be called sons of God. Florence Nightingale, whose heroic pioneer work in nursing sick and wounded soldiers in time of war has made her name forever memorable, wrote the following words: "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God—in all temptations, trials, and aridities, in the agony and bloody sweat, in the cross and passion; this is not the prerogative of the future life, but of the present." So Ruskin says that these words of promise, they shall see God, have always been understood by him as having reference, like the other Beatitudes, to actual human life, and not to some experience beyond the grave. It is here and now that the pure in heart see God. But impure and selfish thoughts and deeds obscure that vision of faith.

10. Which Are Persecuted. The disciples of Christ who heard these words were destined in after years to suffer much persecution. They must have often recalled them with great comfort, so that even in the midst of persecution they could rejoice. Compare 1 Peter 3: 14-18; James 1: 2-4.

Our Lord goes on to show His disciples further what must be the character of those who are to enter into the kingdom of God, and what their relation to the world about them. They must be like saving salt, like shining lights. In their life they must be obedient not merely to the letter, but to the spirit of their ancient law, which will find fulfilment in His gospel. Above all they must be governed by the law of love.

43-48. Compare Lev. 19: 18, 34 and Deut. 23: 6. While love was taught in the Old Testament, and even love to one's enemies, yet in the law, and in the Psalms there is preserved something of the ancient spirit of hatred. Jesus would make love supreme in every concern and relationship of life. For love is Godlike, and our human nature can only attain its best in Godlikeness. Even in war love must be still supreme. If we hate the evildoer, and seek to capture or drive off the evil doer, it must still be with genuine love for him and desire to do him good. Even if the stroke of death must be inflicted it must be with love and sorrow. Love makes perfect, and love only. Love fulfils every law. It is the "bond of perfectness."

The French Canadian Horse.

The French Canadian horse, which comparatively little known outside the province of Quebec, is claimed to be one of the most durable and otherwise useful horses to be found anywhere in Canada. In bulletin 95 of the Experimental Farms, the author, Mr. Gus Langelier, points out that this breed is descended from the old French Canadian pony, sent from France to Canada by Louis XIV. These ponies were the best that could be procured in their native land. They remained for three years the property of the king, and were then distributed among the farmers of Canada, in order to encourage the development of agriculture.

Some few years ago the pedigree records for the French Canadian horse, maintained by the Quebec Government, were transferred to the National Live Stock Records. Other steps have been taken to maintain the breed as pure as possible. One of the best methods, as pointed out in the bulletin which can be obtained from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has been the establishment of a horse-breeding farm at St. Joachim, situated some twenty-five miles east of Quebec City. This farm, which is operated under the Experimental Farms system, has some thirty well selected good mares. These, together with a few of similar quality, kept on the

is hoped to produce a superior new foundation stock for the breed.

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