

woods and are food for hungry birds speak of the Father's care for his creatures.

God gives us promise of daily food for our souls. Did we know that our souls were hungry—hungry to be made better? hungry to know the Father? hungry to have forgiveness for sin? hungry to have our Father say, "Well done," when we have tried faithfully, against great discouragement, to do right? Have we any promises that our hungry souls shall be fed? "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." "My God shall supply all your need."

LESSON XIII. (June 24.)

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Thy kingdom come."
Matt. 6. 10.



Introductory. What is a kingdom? We have had the word often this quarter, and ought to feel sure about the meaning. A kingdom is what belongs to a king, what is ruled over by a king.

The people in a kingdom are called the subjects of the king. A subject means one who is willing to obey. Now suppose a king had a great country belonging to him, and millions of people, yet the people hated him and refused to obey him. Would the kingdom really be his? It would be filled with rebels; that means disobedient ones instead of subjects. Unless the hearts of the people truly belong to the king he is not really king over them, though he may punish them and make them do what they do not wish to.

God's kingdom is in the hearts of people. It has to come in—that is, God's love and God's word must come into the heart and rule there. When we pray "Thy kingdom come" we ask that this dear love and the word of the Lord and his power and help and everything good may come into our hearts, and into others' hearts all over the world. When we ask this we must also be ready to work for this, doing what we can to let others know what a good king Jesus is, and helping them to choose him.

The Kingdom of God. What is it like, this heavenly kingdom? We have been finding out all this quarter. It is a kingdom

of blessing. We have had a circle of blessing all these weeks. It has no beginning or end, but always goes on. God's blessings are like this.

First, we have "The Beatitudes" and the blessing of purity. "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Then we find that it is a kingdom of love, with its "Precepts and Promises," all so loving and true, and its Golden Rule to measure by. It is a kingdom of faith, and we have the blessing of believing. We cannot see love, but we can see and trust what love does and obey the text "Be not afraid, only believe."

It is a kingdom of pity, and the blessing of pity is very great. If Jesus were not sorry for us and if no one was ever pitiful, it would be a sad world to live in. In the lesson "The Centurion's Servant Healed" we learn of our Lord's pity, and that "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."

Then we learn of "Jesus and John the Baptist," and of the blessing of power. "He hath done all things well," and showed his great power in love. Sometimes men who have great power show it by hurting others, but Jesus helps by his great might.

In "Jesus Warning and Inviting" we have the blessing of rest. There was never so sweet an invitation as "Come unto me, all ye that labor."

"Jesus at the Pharisee's House" is a lesson that shows us the blessing of gratitude. The poor woman who loved much was forgiven much, and Jesus's word to her was, "Thy faith hath saved thee."

The "Parable of the Sower" teaches us that "The seed is the word of God," and we have the blessing of the word. If God had never said anything to us, how hard it would have been!

In the "Parables of the Kingdom" we learn that "The field is the world." We have the blessing of harvest to look forward to. Are we getting ready for it?

"The Twelve Sent Forth" teaches the blessing of helping and that "It is not ye that speak."

The blessing of temperance is taught in the sad "Death of John the Baptist," and here is the command, "Be not drunk with wine."

"The Feeding of Five Thousand" and the prayer "Give us this day our daily bread" teach us the blessing of daily bread—how to ask, what to do.

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