

Matthew 5 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 2-6.

Golden Text—Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.—Matthew 5 : 8.

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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After Jesus had chosen His disciples, He gathered them around Him, with the rest of the people who were near, and preached to them on the top of the mountain the wonderful and beautiful sermon which we now call the Sermon on the Mount. As Jesus looked at the faces before Him, He saw very few who were really happy, so He 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 they must be "poor in spirit", that is, humble, for only the humble could belong to His kingdom. "And blessed, too, are they that mourn", said Jesus. It is hard to bear trouble, but if one bears it quietly, when God thinks it best to send it, He will bless that person.

And, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." To be meek means to be patient, and not to grow angry when others try to offend us or do us harm. Jesus was often attacked by wicked men, but He bore it meekly and patiently, and those who fol-

low His example shall be the very happiest persons on earth.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be satisfied, or filled." We hunger and thirst after righteousness, when we are as eager to please God as we are to get food when we are hungry or water when thirsty. And if we try to do right as much as this, God will help us, and we shall be satisfied in pleasing Him. "Blessed are the merciful", Jesus went on : "for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers"—those who will not quarrel, and who try to keep others from quarreling : —"for they shall be called the children of God."

Jesus also told His hearers plainly, that they would often be hated and cruelly treated in this world, because they were His followers. But this should only make them glad, for by this they would know that they were His and that at last they would be rewarded in heaven. Even the prophets, He