

vultures are meant,—birds which feed on carrion. Jesus means that those belonging to His kingdom will be saved, while those outside of it will be destroyed, wherever they are.

Light from the East

By the late Rev. James Ross, D.D.

SON OF MAN—This was a Messianic title in some Jewish literature, although not so understood by the great body of the people. It means that Jesus was the man in whom human nature was fully and deeply realized, the most complete example of its capacities, warm and broad in His sympathies, ready to minister and suffer for others, sharing to the full the needs and deprivations which are the common lot of humanity, but revealing at

the same time the dignity and greatness of human nature and destined ultimately to exalt it to unexampled majesty and glory. It blended the conception of the suffering servant with that of the Messianic king. He is the ideal and representative man, He transcends every individual and is the equivalent of the race. There is nothing sectional or national about Him; He is in perfect sympathy with every man of every nation and of every age, in Him are combined the ideal excellencies of man and woman so that He can perfectly understand both. He has the nature and qualities of mankind and claims relationship with man everywhere. The title suggested to some of His people one who should have sway over a world delivered from the powers of evil.

THE LESSON APPLIED

By Rev. M. B. Davidson, M.A., Toronto

1. There is no need to wait for the kingdom of God. We can enter it now wherever we are. A Bible Society agent recently told of a man in China who for forty years had had in his possession a copy of the Bible. But his Bible had been of little use to him, because he had not been able to read it. At last he learned to read it, and accepted Christ. But for all those forty years the way of life had been almost within his reach. The way of life is wholly within our reach if we are willing to step out upon it.

2. The kingdom is spiritual rather than material. Jesus disappointed the Jews when He told them that. They wanted to be able to see things. Sometimes we may make the same mistake. We may be tempted to think that the kingdom depends upon good organization, and fine churches. No, the kingdom depends rather upon things we cannot see, although we can see the results of them. There is a legend which says that the apostle Thomas became famous as an architect and in his travels he came to India. A great king there asked him to build the proudest palace that had ever been erected. The king gave Thomas untold treasure to carry out the task. But Thomas spent the money in clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. The king found out what was happening to his money and he sent the apostle to prison. But the

king had a vision in which he was told that in paradise the most marvelous palace ever seen had been erected, and that it had been erected for the king by the good deeds of Thomas. So the king released the apostle,—

“And said, ‘O builder, he most is wise
Who buildeth ever for paradise.’”

3. There can be no triumph without hardship first. That was what happened in the case of Jesus. He had to walk the way of the cross before He mounted the king's judgment seat. He had to suffer in order to be the Saviour of those who appear at that judgment seat. And is that not always the way? The wheat must pass through the mill before we have any flour. Robert Louis Stevenson tells us in one of his letters of how his servant in Samoa used to say how hard it was that the bad bananas flourished wild, and the good ones had to be tended and weeded. But that is a law of life. The thing worth while is the thing which demands toil and care and suffering. But these will not be so hard when we keep the end in view.

4. We are to learn from the past. We are to be warned by the fate of evil nations and evil individuals in the past. One of the best habits for young people is the habit of reading history and biography, not merely because they are so interesting, but also because of the great lessons we can learn from them for