

spirit shown by David, when he said concerning Shimei, "So let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David," (2 Sam. 16: 10); by Moses, when Miriam and Aaron "spoke against him" (Num. 12: 1); by Joseph when he provided a home for his brethren who had deeply injured him (Gen. 47: 11, 12). It is instructive to notice the place of this beatitude in the series. It comes after those pronounced on the poor in spirit and the mourning. It is when we realize our own need and lack of merit, and truly sorrow for our own sin, that we shall be ready to receive injury from others without resentment. No one can offend us as deeply as we have offended God. Meekness springs out of poverty of spirit and godly sorrow.

When it is said that the meek "shall inherit the earth," it is not meant that they shall obtain landed property. The earth really belongs to those who know how to use it and enjoy it. It is when the world

ministers to our growth in character that it becomes truly ours. And when the Kingdom of Heaven becomes a kingdom on earth, all things will belong to the meek. (Ps. 37: 11.)

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God, v. 8. A physician who had charge of a large hospital in Norway, containing as many as a thousand lepers, said that the disease sometimes appears to attack the optic nerve of the patients, so that they see everything with a leper's eye. In some cases there were large tubercles on the faces of the men. If some of the lepers were asked who were the best looking men in Norway among their acquaintance, they would point to some leper more ugly than themselves. Leprosy made them unable to perceive real beauty. Sin prevents us from seeing God. It renders us blind to His true character.

For further illustrative matter see "Points and Paragraphs."

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

Jesus seeks earnest scholars. v. 1.

The love of Jesus appears in the word "blessed." This King wished His subjects to be happy. vs. 3, etc.

It is what we are, not what we have, that makes us truly happy. vs. 3, etc.

Not the poor are blessed, but the poor in spirit. v. 3.

The Kingdom of Heaven is wherever a single heart obeys the rule of Christ. v. 3.

Sorrow is not always a blessing, but those are always blessed who are truly sorry for sin. v. 4.

Meekness is despised in the world; it is highly honored in the Kingdom of Heaven. v. 5.

We usually get what we desire intensely. If we really long to be righteous, our longing will be satisfied. v. 6.

The way in which we treat others will be reflected in the treatment they give us. v. 7.

To see God is to know His character, to be conscious of His presence, to have fellowship with Him. v. 8.

The true peacemaker is he who helps to spread the Gospel; for the Gospel of Jesus is the Gospel of peace. v. 9.

"Blessed" and "persecuted" contradict each other in the experience of all except Christ and Christians. v. 10.

Those who are merciful obtain mercy. "Take care how you offend me, for I never forgive", said one man to another in the hearing of John Wesley. "Then", said Wesley, "I hope you never sin; for with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

In 1852 a vessel was wrecked off the Island of Efate. Every one of the crew was killed and eaten by the savages inhabiting the island. In 1898 another vessel was wrecked there with a hundred and twenty on board. They were all rescued. Thirty were taken to one village, thirty to another, and so on about the island. They were sheltered and fed for six months, until, another vessel arriving, they were kindly provided with a safe passage. What had wrought the change? The establishment in the island of

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