

### THAT WONDERFUL SERMON.

Read carefully, the following from *The Christian Observer*, and you will be richly repaid for your work, more especially if you have been studying the Sabbath School Lessons the past few weeks:

"Commencing at the fifth chapter of Matthew,—in the first twelve verses, Christ teaches us what should be the *character of a Christian man*; 'pure in spirit,' 'meek,' 'merciful,' 'pure in heart,' 'peacemaker,' etc. And knowing the repugnance of the human heart to the practice of holiness, he encourages the hearer to it by the repetition of the word, 'blessed,' and by the promises, 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven,' etc.

"The second division of the Sermon tells us of what nature the *actions* of the Christian should be, or what the Christian should do. Under this head he discusses the sixth commandment, the third, the seventh, and the new commandment ('Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.') In this he develops the principles on which all commandments of God are to be interpreted. This occupies the rest of the fifth chapter.

"The first eighteen verses of the sixth chapter introduce a new theme, and tell us how the Christian should *worship*. They describe the proper mode of worshipping God, with our money, or in almsgiving; then they set forth the true spirit of prayer, and describe that kind of fasting which is acceptable before God.

"But as our salvation hinges, not upon our worship, but upon the simple act of faith in Christ, our Lord devotes the last half of this chapter to a *description of what faith is*—the removal from the heart of the love of earth, together with singleness of love for God, and reliance upon him for all that we need. If he cares for the ravens, and the lilies, surely his children may trust him to care for us.

"The effect of this faith in God upon our *conduct toward our fellowmen*, is the fifth theme of this discourse. It will make us not critical, or consorionic, but kind and charitable toward our fellows, and at the same time prudent in all our relations to them. It will make us at once 'judge not that we be not judged,' and 'give not that which is holy unto the dogs.' The reader has already recognized this as the teaching of the opening verses of the seventh chapter.

"The effect of this faith upon our *conduct toward God*, is the sixth head of this discourse. It will make us 'ask,' 'seek' and 'knock' and look to our Father to give us all that we need. It will make us enter in 'at the straight gate' and cause us to be in *haste to seek it*.

"The other effect of this faith, is the closing theme of the discourse. It is an exceeding caution for ourselves against the acceptance of erroneous doctrines, or listening to 'false prophets.' As it were in anticipation of the tendencies of this century, he bids us 'beware of false prophets.' And he makes the warning emphatic by describing their end in terms to make us shudder. As we read Christ's answer to them, 'I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity,' or as we read of the house upon the sand that 'it fell, and great was the fall of it,' our hearts cannot but realize how important it is for us to 'beware of false prophets.'

"To sum up, Christ tells us:

- 1st. What we ought to be.
- 2nd. What we ought to do.
- 3rd. How we ought to worship.
- 4th. How we ought to trust.
- 5th. How we ought to feel toward our fellow men.
- 6th. How we ought to feel toward God.
- 7th. How we ought to guard ourselves against those doctrinal errors which ruin the soul."

### THE WAY TO CONQUER.

"I'll master it," said the axe; and his blows fell heavily on the iron.

But every blow made his edge more blunt, till he ceased to strike.

"Leave it to me," said the saw; and, with his relentless teeth, he worked backward and forward on its surface till they were all worn down and broken, and he fell aside.

"Ha, ha!" said the hammer. "I knew you wouldn't succeed. I'll show you the way."

But at the first fierce stroke off flew his head, and the iron remained as before.

"Shall I try?" asked the soft, small flame.

They all despised the flame; but he curled gently round the iron and embraced it, and never left it till it melted under its irresistible influence.