

## DRAWING BLOOD FROM A WORD

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.  
The Informal Sunday School Lesson for October 24 is "What the King Requires," Matthew 5 and 6.

One great word is central to the kingdom platform of Jesus; and that word is such a matter of fact that most of us use it without thought of its meaning. Noble words are like a seed which grows smooth with much handling and lose their life, as that they need to be returned to the soil for fresh issues, the great words of religion have suffered abrasion and, in consequence, lack clearness and definiteness of meaning.

We ask ourselves what the recurring familiar "blessed" in the Declaration of Principles of Jesus really signifies, when translated into everyday English, and are rather puzzled to give answer. We turn to the dictionary, and lo, a flood of right streams upon this central word of our Lesson and of our religion.

The "blessed" at its deepest root, means to consecrate by the sprinkling of blood. The altar aroma surrounds this text of the teaching of the Master. "Let the person who comes less for the sermon on the Mount than for the Farewell Discourse in the upper room look at the red stream running through the fabric of the kingdom utterance. Like all the teaching of Jesus, "blessed" drops blood. The "blessed" are the consecrated; the blood-sprinkled; the ones whom God has accepted as in an act of worship. The initials of this doorway into the kingdom are blood-sprinkled. The "blessed" therefore are the recipients of heavenly favor, the partakers of divine felicity.

Thus, like the Passover, there is an air of a completed transaction about the Beatitudes. They are a divine affirmation of an accomplished fact. The poor in spirit, the merciful, the meek, the heart-hungry, etc., are already rewarded; they are recipients of the benediction pronounced by Jesus. He calls them happy, and God-favored. They come under the sacrificial blood. They do not need any other reward. Just to be approved by God is supreme compensation. Whosoever orders his life by the law of the Lord is "blessed," he has won earth's supreme boon.

After The Bloody War.

We had all hoped that, as "with out the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin," so the world war, with its ten million young lives slain, might help redeem humanity from the evils that blighted society. Now we find ourselves in a condition of chaos, with problems more difficult than those that accompanied the war. Perhaps we are losing the peace because there has been no spiritual shedding of blood on the part of civilization since the crucifixion, because with ghastly promptness turned to selfishness and greed and acquisition and pleasure and revenge and vanity; the vicious, selfish, and lustful that accompanied the conflict have been lacking. We have tried to reconstruct the world without the consecration of its corner stones.

All the while the world stands clear and luminous that the round world must have for its portal the oneness of "blessed" of Jesus; and for its cornerstone a blood-stained cross. All of which is but another way of saying that the programme for our severely-shaken time needs to be the programme first spoken on a Galilean hillside, overlooking the changing waters of the lake He loved, by Jesus our Teacher as well as our Saviour. That ancient gathering on Kana Galilee signifies most of all the disturbed nature of the present time, and the conferences of the Supreme Council, the Economic Council, the League of Nations Council, the Industrial Council, or all the other bodies that are nowadays sitting to consider the state of the world. No other remedy that has been adduced for present ills is so workable and so efficacious as the kingdom principles of Jesus. We shall continue to go wrong until we turn, and go His way, along the path stained red with sacrifice and selflessness.

A Deliverance of Democracy.

Best starting is a fresh and open-minded reading of these familiar words from the standpoint of democracy. In these days we apply the touchstone of democracy to nearly everything; and in so doing we are right. Our age has entered into a new and transforming conception of the place and power and possibilities of democracy in human life. All the carnal agony of earth today is but a blind struggle and groping after the reality of democracy. No person is really doing any serious thinking who is not giving thought to democracy. In this mood we turn to the Political Platform of Jesus, and we are struck, first of all, by the fact that it was addressed to the common crowd. No aristocratic senate, no proud plenipotentiaries of power, no learned

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## NEW SCHEME TO RAISE LUSITANIA

French Engineer Proposes to Build Huger Raft to do the Trick—Cargo to Pay Cost.

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Washington, Oct. 15.—Our naval engineering authorities are much interested in a new project evolved by the French engineer, Emil Bertin, for the salvage of the Lusitania. Bertin has submitted his scheme for critical observations to all technical colleges and engineering institutes in Europe. He proposes that a huge raft, 1,000 by 300 feet in size be constructed and towed to the spot where the wreck is located. At low water this raft is to be attached to the Lusitania by means of 800 specially strong steel ropes. The raft would then be raised owing to the lift and could at once be towed into port for repairs. The valuable cargo which includes a tin of tin, more than cover the cost of salvage. It is significant that the most "convincing" objections to the engineering scheme emanate from German sources.

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