

Sunday School Lesson

By DR. WILL O. GORDON

STANDARDS OF THE KINGDOM

SCRIPTURE HELPS ON THE LESSON—Matthew v. 1-18.

LESSON TEXT—Matthew v. 3-9, 17-20, 43-48

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.—Matt. v. 8.

MESSAGE OF THE LESSON

Jesus Speaking to Our Age in the Sermon on the Mount.

For nearly two thousand years we have been trying to teach what Jesus Christ taught. When in the Sermon on the Mount we hear Jesus speak again to our age, what we hear is, the ideals of Jesus for the people of the Kingdom. Here Jesus sets forth character ideals for Kingdom men. The ideals must always stand as something fundamental to the people of His Kingdom. That means that as disciples of Jesus Christ we are committed to the task of actually reaching these ideals in this world, where we live, move, and have our being. These ideals are ours to be taken into private life, in home, in business, in politics and in our social contacts that make or mar the beauty and joy of living, and which largely determines the quality of our personal allegiance to Jesus Christ.

"This one thing to know and another to practice. And thence I conclude that the real God-function is to furnish a motive and injunction. For practicing what we know already."

So the real test as to the value of Jesus' ideal comes when men adventure on the basis of it, agree with it, apply it to everyday life, and determine what it does when it is literally used as a basis of life. Wherever and whenever that test has been applied to life, the compensation thereof is redeemed life. Always so. The ideals of Jesus are therefore certainly challenging conception of human character and relationships. It takes a good deal of courage to put them into practice. And yet his ideals are the superstructure of his Kingdom, the character of all subject to that kingdom, the proof of discipleship. As we read again the Sermon on the Mount, may it be as if Jesus were talking to us, to our age. Let us hear what He has to say to us in this Sermon on the Mount.

If herein are to be the characteristics of the people of His Kingdom, certainly we want to see the portrait that He makes of us. Seven Beatitudes blended into the individual life, seven distinct characteristics. Seven steps in the process of maturing into kingdom men. And He begins by using that word "blessed," perhaps better understood by the word "happy," but happy about what, poor in spirit, not so much over the spiritual poverty in which man may find himself, but happy because he discovered his poverty. His poverty is the result of sin. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. When a man makes a discovery like that in his own life, he makes two fortunate discoveries. One is spiritual poverty, the other spiritual need. Hence the truth of the Master's saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Spiritual riches await the poverty-stricken soul. This is the first step to spiritual happiness.

2nd. Yet not altogether happy for there has come upon us a sense of sorrow which rests upon us a sense of sorrow. A deep sense of sorrow because of our own sins, and then we begin to think of what sin is doing for others. Sin blinds the eyes. Sin paralyzes the spiritual perceptions. Sin separates from holiness. Sin shuts out the vision of God. What did it do to us, who have awakened to recognition of our spiritual poverty, we know it is doing the same for others. We became mourners not only for our sins, but now we think of others, too. And our Lord promises comfort to them that mourn, and because of the comfort of God, our souls are made happy.

3rd. But our happiness is not yet complete. Meekness is a fine characteristic and it belongs to the sinner humiliated by his sin. Now we are ready to submit unreservedly to the will of God, and the compensation of that submission, we enter into the inheritance of the land. Happy are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

4th. Back in our Father's Land of Plenty. We become conscious of hunger and thirst after righteousness. We know what the world has to offer, but cannot satisfy hunger and thirst of the soul. There is a cry in my soul after God, there must be somewhere an answer to that cry. It hunger and thirsts after righteousness. It yearns after the very righteousness of God. And Jesus said Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. The manifestation of God, will achieve and confer the blessedness of man, by the complete satisfaction of spiritual demands. The righteousness shall be filled with the righteousness of God.

5th. Now since we have found a merciful God, we, too, can be merciful. Remember, O man, what doth the Lord require of thee, but to love mercy and do justice, and to walk humbly before thy God. A lesson of mercy our Master has taught us when He said: Take heed to yourselves, if a brother sins against you, rebuke him, and if he repent, forgive him, but Jesus added, If he sins seven times in a day, and turns to you seven times saying, "I am sorry," be merciful and forgive him. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

6th. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. A poverty-

stricken soul, mourning before God, humbly or meekly addressing Him, seeking after His righteousness, comes into possession of a pure heart, and the pure in heart only, shall see God.

7th. And the high vocation of this kingdom man is that of a peacemaker. O, what a glorious vocation in this medley of care and crime, strife and bitterness this tangled tangle we call the world. Peacemakers. We ourselves at peace with God and man. Seeking to bring others into this possible happy relation. Herein do we settle our sonship with God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Now what have we discovered in this beautiful, eloquent sermon of Jesus. What is its spiritual significance. These seven characteristics of kingdom men are divided into two definite classes. Note the first four, how they look into our hearts, and then the remaining three lead us to look out on the divine realm. May we not pray:

The kingdom that I seek is Thine, so let the way that leads to it be Thine.

Next, Jesus concludes his marvelous message with the principle of love as it is to be carried into the relationships of life. When love is in the heart, there will be no rivalry among the people of God. All our differences are obliterated just as soon as they fall into the fountain of love.

The evidence that I love God supremely is not found in the fact that I address him in endearing terms, but that I make the doing of His will the supreme business of my life. John says, "Herein is love, that we keep his commandments." Happy are ye, if ye do these things.

"To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky."

"We love, because God first loved us."

OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER IN WILKES COUNTY ABOLISHED

Judge Oglesby has submitted his ruling in the case of Mr. O. F. Eller, treasurer of Wilkes County, and abolished the office. The entry, as of record in the office of Clerk of Court, reads as follows: "It is ordered and adjudged that the office of Treasurer of Wilkes County be abolished and same is hereby abolished, according to the terms and conditions of the Act of the General Assembly as set forth in the pleadings of this cause. It is further ordered by the court that O. F. Eller, Realtor, deliver all properties and monies in his custody by reason of being treasurer of Wilkes County, to the Board of Commissioners of Wilkes County. It is further ordered by the court that the temporary restraining order heretofore issued in this cause, be and the same is dissolved."

Along with the above entry is the following notice of appeal by the attorneys for Mr. Eller:

"The Realtor in the above entitled cause, through his attorneys, F. J. McDuffie, Eugene Trivette and John R. Jones, enters notice of appeal to the Supreme Court, under date of January 8th, 1930, said notice having been served or accepted by A. H. Casey, attorney for the County Commissioners, and William A. Stroud, clerk of Superior Court."

It will be remembered that Mr. Eller was elected to the office of county treasurer in the general election of 1928, and that the last legislature abolished the office, in the interest of economy. The commissioners were restrained from declaring the office vacant, however, until the above decision dissolved the temporary restraining order.

Whether the county funds will be handled by the county auditor and other county officers with one or both of the local banks as depositories, as was intended by the Legislature, will be a matter for legal minds to untangle.

DEPUTIES FIGHT FOR GUN AND THREE MEN ESCAPE

Folks about Lenoir received a hearty laugh at the mishap of two of Sheriff Rader's deputies last week which resulted in no arrests and the freedom of three men caught with some liquor.

Deputies Avery Campbell and Austin were working together. They caught three young men and had arrested them for possession of liquor. The sun had set several hours before. The night was dark.

While searching the men one of the deputies found a pistol. The other deputy was casting his flashlight on the boys searching for a weapon at the same time. The beam of light fell on the gun already taken by the first deputy, and the two deputies began to wrangle for the possession of the gun, each believing the other was one of the three men arrested. They scuffled quite a bit and when the dust had settled they recognized each other and the three men escaped, leaving the deputies with nothing but a pistol to show for their efforts.

Lenoir News-Tonic

LOMAX AND KILBY BUY YADKIN VALLEY MOTOR CO.

A deal of considerable importance was announced in North Wilkesboro recently in the purchase of a considerable amount of stock in the Yadkin Valley Motor Company by Andrew F. Kilby and C. Bret Lomax. Messrs. Kilby and Lomax purchased their stock in the North Wilkesboro automobile concern from C. D. Coffey and Sons, who have had control of the business since its purchase from F. C. Harper in 1922.

Mr. Lomax was one of the founders of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company which operated plants in Watauga and Avery counties and was a partner of Judge Johnson Hayes. They sold their holdings in Boone and Newland several weeks ago to R. L. Ellis, of Asheville, one of the largest Coca-Cola bottlers in the State. Both Mr. Kilby and Mr. Lomax will have active management of the motor company in the future.

Birthday of Franklin Topic at Civitan Meet

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subject of a talk to have been delivered by J. L. Qualls, but on account of his absence, Dr. O. J. Chandler, Civitan's newest member, was introduced as a "fill-in." The noted linguist in glowing language used an experience of his college days as a practical application to the subject. It seems that two members of a college debating club were to hold the center of the stage in a commencement day program, their theme being, "Which is the More Beautiful, Art or Nature." Just a few minutes before the program commenced, the champion of "Nature" failed to make his appearance, for some unknown reason, and disaster threatened the program. Young Chandler, who himself was recognized as an orator of no mean ability, was called on to "save the day." The "Art" man spoke first, using twenty to thirty minutes in piling up what seemed to be an insurmountable mountain of evidence to prove his contentions. He carried his listeners through all the famous art salons of the world, and delved deeply into ancient, medieval and modern artistic lore. And when he finished, the audience thundered its approval. Dr. Chandler, who at

that time was in love with a girl who had auburn hair, rose to his feet, and after explanatory remarks described to the audience his sweetheart, as she appeared to his imagination as they walked together on an Autumn evening "down the wooded avenue toward the open meadow; in the flowing stream her form transfigured by the mellow rays of an August moon. As I took her tapering fingers, and lifted a velvet palm to a dimpled cheek blushing with youthful beauty; as I looked into the eyes that sparkled with more brilliance than diamonds the sun had kissed; as I stole my face in close proximity to cherry lips dripping with the tempting flavors of mystic sweetness; as I lifted her bonnet and drew the pins that let her golden tresses fall like silken threads around marble shoulders more shapely than those of the sculptured gods; as I took off her slippers and washed her pearl-white feet in the laughing waters of the bubbling brook."

And the speaker closed with these words: "Ladies and gentlemen: the question is, 'Which is More Beautiful, Art or Nature,' and I appeal to the intelligence of this audience and the justice of the judges for my decision." The verdict was "Nature." Dr. Chandler's brilliant talk closed the program. The club holds its next regular noon-time meeting Thursday at 12:45 o'clock at the Daniel Boone Hotel.

J. W. Whisnant Died At Lenoir on Friday

J. W. Whisnant, one of the most prominent attorneys of Caldwell County, died at his home in Lenoir last Friday night. Mr. Whisnant was a partner of Mark Squires in the law firm of Squires and Whisnant, one of the best known legal organizations in this part of the State.

The death of Mr. Whisnant was sudden and came as a distinct shock to the people of this section. He was apparently in perfect health during the day and was in Boone attending to business matters.

Chief Justice Taft Thanks Civitan Club

On behalf of the Civitan Club of Boone, Chief Justice William Howard Taft, who is spending some time at Greys Park Inn, Asheville, has been presented with a case of the famed Watauga Sauer Kraut Juice. An acknowledgment of the gift has been received from Mr. Taft, as follows: "The Chief Justice received the case of kraut juice and thanks the members of the Civitan Club very much for it."

First Farmers Institute Next Week Hailed as Harbinger of Prosperity

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their doors. The general conditions prevailing throughout this section must be good or bad just as its livestock and agricultural industries succeed or fail. In farming as well as in business, success depends upon the amount of intelligent thought given the various phases of the undertaking. Men are coming to Boone to discuss with Wataugans those things which most affect them; and to conduct a three-day school to enable the farmers to establish their industry on a firmer and more profitable footing. These men have given years of study and hard work to the subjects which they will discuss and the information they bring is unquestionably correct.

The Democrat would join heartily with the committee in urging all farmers of the county, and farm women, to come to Boone and attend every session of the institute. All who attend will receive untold benefits and the town is host to the tillers of the soil for three days. Come out, be with us, enjoy a pleasant visit, and we will profit immeasurably.

WATAUGA COUNTY Farmers' Institute January 28, 29, 30, 1930 SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, BOONE, N. C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28—A. M. 9:30 to 12:30

- "Watauga County Agriculture," P. M. Hendricks, County Agent, Caldwell County. "Sheep Production for Watauga County," E. C. Turner, County Agent, Ashe County. "Production of Dairy Products," P. M. Hendricks, County Agent, Caldwell County.

P. M.—2:00 to 4:00

- "Beef Cattle Production," E. C. Turner, County Agent, Ashe County.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29—A. M. 9:30 to 12:30

- "Poultry Production in Watauga County," C. F. Parrish, Extension Poultry Specialist, State College, Raleigh, N. C. "Marketing," R. B. Etheridge, Chief, Division of Markets, Raleigh, N. C.

P. M.—2:00 to 4:00

- "The Growing of Horticultural Crops" (this will include cabbage, potatoes, beans and all kinds of garden vegetables and flowers); H. R. Niswonger, Extension Horticulturist, State College, Raleigh, N. C.; Charles Baird, County Agent, Avery Co.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30—A. M. 9:30 to 12:30

- "Farm Crops and Soil Building": S. J. Kirby, Extension Agronomist, State College, Raleigh, N. C.; J. L. Walls, Teacher of Agriculture, Patterson School.

P. M.—2:00 to 4:00

- Address, Dr. E. C. Brooks, President State Agricultural College, Raleigh, N. C. "The Growing and Marketing of Tobacco" will be discussed somewhere in the above program, by County Agent of Johnson County, Tennessee.

This institute is fostered by State Agricultural College, Raleigh, N. C., Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N. C., Watauga County Livestock Association, Watauga County Bank, Peoples Bank, Bank of Blowing Rock, Building and Loan Association, Civitan Club and The Watauga Democrat.

Your committee is of the opinion that no more important meeting of the county, has ever been held within its borders. We are, therefore, urging every farmer and business man, also the women, and especially young men, to attend every one of these meetings which, to you, is absolutely free.

We feel that you owe it to yourself, your family and your county to avail yourself of this rare opportunity of aiding in this county-wide movement, to better the financial condition of every citizen and business of the county.

Plan your affairs right now to attend this institute, and don't let anything keep you away. Be on time the first morning. We will have you a good warm room, and a big welcome and a program without a dull moment. Every speaker is well trained and experienced in his subject. We are expecting a number of farmers and business men from our adjoining counties, and a large representation of Watauga people.

- B. B. DOUGHERTY G. P. HAGAMAN GRANVILLE STORY W. H. GRAGG W. W. MAST HARRISON BAKER SMITH HAGAMAN, Committee.

We Are Counting on YOU!

We Mean YOU!