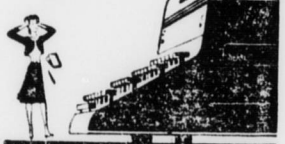


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Pinkham's Compound is made especially for women—it helps nature and that's the kind of medicine to buy! Follow label directions.

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The GROVE LABORATORIES, INC.

ST. LOUIS 3, MISSOURI

Makers of GROVE'S COLD TABLETS

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for January 21

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STANDARDS OF THE KINGDOM

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 5:3-10, 43-48. GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matthew 5:10.

A kingdom must have laws, and here we have the laws for Christ's kingdom—the kingdom of heaven—which He shall one day establish on this earth. In the Church we have the joy of living as loyal subjects of Christ, and hence these standards are for our counsel and guidance.

The verses of this greatest of all discourses are addressed to those who have actually taken Christ as King of their lives. These beatitudes are not a substitute for the gospel. They are not laws that the unbeliever can keep and thus be saved, for this would be utterly impossible. Only he who knows and has called upon the power and grace of God in Christ can qualify to walk as a citizen of Christ's kingdom.

We note two things in this wonderful and instructive passage from God's Word:

I. The Character of the Follower of Christ (vv. 3-10).

The eight characteristics of the Christian here presented are worthy of extended individual attention, but we can offer only brief suggestions. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" speaks of humility as a commendable quality. How contradictory the present-day philosophy, which calls for self-assertion and self-reliance. But Jesus was not mistaken. The way into the kingdom of heaven is not that of assertive self-sufficiency.

"Blessed are they that mourn." The world does not believe that statement. It shuns the house of mourning. It tries without avail to philosophize away the fact of sorrow. The Christian, on the other hand, feels with his fellow man and thus receives a blessing. One can really learn from sorrow.

I walked a mile with Pleasure;
She chattered all the way,
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow,
And ne'er a word said she;
But, ah, the things I learned from her
When Sorrow walked with me.

"Blessed are the meek." Poverty of spirit comes when a man rightly sees himself, and has a sympathetic touch with sorrow. Then he "inherits the earth," because he truly comes to enjoy it as a place of service and Christian growth, and not because he has a deed to a single foot of its soil.

"It is the hunger and thirst for righteousness (v. 6), and not the possession of it, that is blessed" (Plummer). Self-satisfied people know nothing of the glory of having their hunger and thirst satisfied by God.

We have here also the Christian's spirit of mercy which invites divine mercy; a purity of heart, cleanness of mind, and sincerity of purpose, which enable a man really to see God even in this impure world; that Christlike spirit which makes him a peacemaker in a fighting world—yes, that spirit which makes him like the Master in sweetly bearing unjustified persecution. These indeed are the marks of the man who follows Christ as King.

II. The Conduct of the Follower of Christ (vv. 43-48).

There can possibly be no more severe test of a man's Christian character than the manner in which he treats his enemies. Many who pass the other tests meet failure (at least in part) at this point.

It is no easy thing to love your enemies, but it is the standard of Christ, and He will enable us to live up to it. Now is a good time to put it into practice, not only personally, but nationally.

There can be no doubt that love for the brethren will be a more intimate and satisfying experience because they return our affection (v. 46). Anyone can do that and enjoy it. Enemies often return hatred for our love—they persecute us (v. 44). But we are still to love them.

That love must move us to treat them kindly and to pray for them. Someone says, "It can't be done." Yes, it can by the grace of God in Christ, and it is being done.

We need to exercise care lest we fall into the easy habit of speaking with derision or scorn of the ungodly—that wicked, dissipated neighbor who hangs around taverns and other questionable places. Let us never condone their sin—that we should hate—but may God help us to love them and lead them to Christ.

This lesson is indicated as being a temperance lesson. The application can only be made indirectly, but it may have value. The use of alcohol is so destructive of everything that is good, that it is quite obvious it is not in accord with these standards of the kingdom of heaven. It is time some church people decided whether they want to belong to the world or belong to Christ. If the latter is their purpose, we believe the only consistent position to take is that of abstinence from alcoholic liquors.

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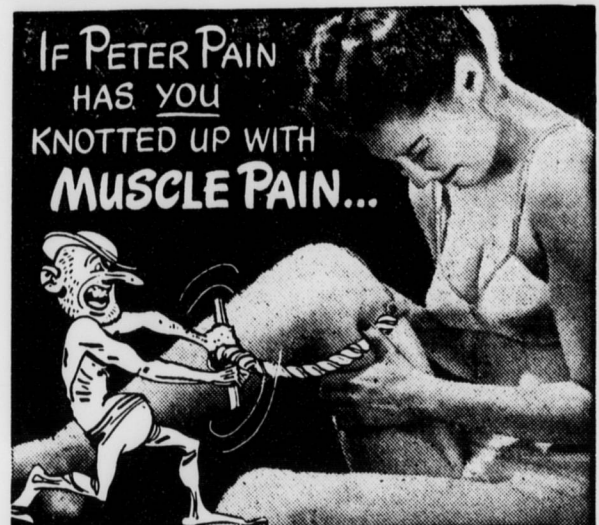
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London is now demolishing the many pillboxes erected in 1940 to defend the city against invasion, says Collier's. Although concrete fortifications, they were never detected by the aerial cameras of the enemy, being ingeniously camouflaged as newsstands, information booths and similar small structures.

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