

"Blessed Are Ye That Weep"

"Woe unto you that are full, for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh, for ye shall weep. Woe unto you when all men speak well of you"—Luke 6:25-26

SOMETIMES in comfort and sometimes in reproof, the Word of God comes to us as our needs require. It is the voice of comfort that we get from the mouth of the Lord Jesus in that beautiful discourse recorded in Matthew, chapters 5 to 7.

In the 6th chapter of Luke we have a beautiful pen picture drawn for us of the great enthusiasm that his work created among the people, as we read of the great multitudes of people which—

"Came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases."

It is said in verse 19—

"And the whole multitude sought to touch him; for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all."

But as we view his work as a whole we note that *the interest thus stirred up did not, for the most part, touch the hearts of the people deep enough to bring about repentance unto salvation*. The scribes and Pharisees continually sought occasion against him because of envy, yet they had to admit—

"Never man spake like this man."

There has always been the scoffer, the scorner and those who would, like Tobiah and Sanballat, endeavour to hinder the good work of the Truth; but let us, like the Master, not be discouraged, but press on with zeal with the assurance that God is on our side. We should say with Nehemiah—

"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? (Neh. 6:3).

As virtue went out from Jesus for the healing of the multitudes that gathered around him, so as we read the words he spoke on this occasion we can be healed of the morbid, sinful condition such as is the lot of the human race under the curse of mortality and death. There were those who *sought to touch him that they might be healed*; so let us draw nigh as we read his words, that it might be known of us, as with the apostles, that we "have been with Jesus." At v. 20 we read—

"And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

The word "poor" in this passage has a wider meaning than poverty or penury: it means *abject, humble, lowly or trembling*, such as the words we read in Isa. 66:2—

"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and **trembleth at My Word.**"

Poverty in itself does not commend us to God, except that in such a state of life the pride and complacency of the rich and honourable is usually absent, and the mind is more apt to seek to God for comfort and help. But even then, the poor of this world must be *rich in faith* in order to become heirs of the kingdom which God has promised to those that love Him.

V. 21—"Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now; for ye shall laugh."

The hunger Jesus speaks of here is that strong inner desire for the good things of the Spirit, that Isaiah speaks of—

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (55:1).

Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. We must desire that sincere milk of the Word, that we may grow thereby.

It is a time now when much sorrow overtakes us, and there is weeping, but the time to laugh will come to God's people when the time comes for Him to—

"Appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, **that He might be glorified**" (Isa. 61:3).

We mourn now as doves, but there is a time appointed when the weeping and mourning shall end, and a time of rejoicing will come. It is a time now for them to be hated, and for men to separate themselves from the disciples of Christ, even as it is written of him—

"They hated me without a cause" (John 15:25).

But let us remember that if it were otherwise, if the world loved us, we could not be the friends of God, for—

"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).

When we are reviled and persecuted, let us think of the words of Jesus—

"BLESSED are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. REJOICE and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12).
Verse 25—

"Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now for ye shall mourn and weep."

Those who find their fulness and pleasure and laughter in this life, and bask in the sunshine of present honor and well-being, will find themselves hungry and mourning when the present system of things collapses under the storms of God's coming judgments. As the house built upon the sand—
"great will be their fall."

V. 26—"Woe unto you, when men shall speak well of you for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

The false prophets were in great favor because they spoke smooth things that pleased the people; but when Jesus came, telling them the truth, they were angry and set about to destroy him. *If we make it our firm business to uphold the truth in all that we say and do, and if we make no compromises with the world, we shall find that the world will not speak well of us; for what we would say and do would be in direct conflict with the thoughts and ways of the natural man.*

Trials and affliction constantly and continually await the true disciples of Christ in the present down-trodden situation of their affairs. It is not for us to endeavour to please men, but God. He will lift us up at last, above our enemies.

W.J.P.
