

STORY—THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus did nearly all His teaching in the open air. The crowds that followed Jesus were so great that no building would hold them. But that was not the only reason. Jesus loved to be out in the open. With the blue sky above and the green grass beneath, He loved to teach the people and a deep silence would fall over the great throng as Jesus spoke.

One day Jesus climbed up a mountainside. He sat on a little hillock, a quiet place, and a great crowd of people spread themselves in a huge semi circle below. Close to Him were His own disciples, and Jesus began what has now been called the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon begins with nine Beatitudes. Beatitude is really a secret of true happiness. They all start with the word 'Blessed' which means 'bringing happiness'. Each blessing has a condition attached to it, because before we know what true happiness means, there are certain conditions to be filled.

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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.⁴⁶