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The Ministrations of the Prince of Peace to the People of this Continent

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Guide Lessons.

LESSON I.

Theology and Testimony.

FIRST WEEK IN MARCH.

THE MINISTRATIONS OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CONTINENT.

After the terrors of thunder and lightning and earthquake had subsided, Jesus came in the midst of his people and began to feed them with the bread of life.

He taught them many important doctrines, but finally he perceived that they needed a period of rest and preparation of spirit before he could venture further with his instructions.

Nevertheless, as he gazed upon them and witnessed their tears, his bowels were filled with compassion, and he felt for them infinite mercy, yea, their mute appeals so touched him that he said:

“Have ye any that are sick among you, bring them hither? Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? bring them hither, and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are full with mercy;

“For I perceive that ye desire that I should show unto you what I have done unto your brethren at Jerusalem, for I see that your faith is sufficient that I should heal you.

“And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick, and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all they that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him.”

Continuing, in the words of the *Story of the Book of Mormon*:

“And they did all, both they who had been healed and they who were whole, bowed at his feet and did worship him; and

as many as could come for the multitude did kiss his feet, inso-much that they did bathe his feet with their tears."

Surely this was a glorious day for the people of this continent. Surely it was a day towards which the inhabitants of this earth might truly yearn.

Think of our world today with its tens of thousands of halt, and lame, and blind; a rough estimate of the fatalities in the late war is ten million, and the wounded will, in all probability, equal or surpass this estimate. Think of all the boasted skill of the twentieth century striving to make the lame to walk and the blind to see after the horrors of war. Think of the French, whose achievement has been so widely proclaimed, sitting in their art studios, day after day, striving to make the soldier made unsightly and repellent by the ravages of war, comely and natural. This they seek to do by means of a thin flesh colored mask, which attempts to imitate the man's photograph when he was whole and sound. Call to mind the hundreds and thousands whom shell shock has made deaf, and those whose blindness is beyond that of the most skilled physician, and others whose sovereign reason is like sweet bells jangled out of tune. Think of us now in the clutches of an epidemic that is baffling the medical profession, and making orphans of hundreds and thousands of children. It is only by keeping in mind our own very sorry plight that we realize the difference in these two pictures.

In the one we have the Savior of the world standing in the midst of his people, with his soul full of love and his bowels full of compassion, saying, "I perceive that your faith is sufficient, bring unto me all that are lame, and halt, and blind, and I will heal them;" and they brought all their sick and afflicted and every one was made whole.

On the other hand we have a world strong in its own strength, wise in its own conceit, self-seeking and unlovely in many of its practices, reaping according to that which it has sown.

Note the utter completeness of the work of the Great Healer. He did not make wooden legs for the lame, nor amputate the hands of those whose hands were withered, or make masks for those whose faces bore unsightly scars; nor did He say, Take away your lepers, your blind and insane, for I can do nothing for them; but all their sick were made whole. In the light of this knowledge may we not rejoice and be made glad that he has promised to come again with healing in his wings?

Then he commanded them to bring their little children and place them near him; after they had complied with his request,

he commanded them to kneel, and when they had knelt he prayed in their midst, and the multitude bore record of this prayer and this is the record they bore: that "the eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father ;

"And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak ; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father."

And then Jesus arose and bade the multitude arise, and he wept for joy. Afterwards He blessed their children ; but that story is part of another lesson.

What we wish to draw special attention to is their record in relation to His marvelous prayer, the power of which is beyond mortal comprehension.

PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS.

1. After the terrors of thunder and lightning had passed, what did Christ do in the midst of his people?
2. What does Christ say about "other sheep," in III Nephi 16?
3. What did Jesus teach the people in relation to the sacrament? III Nephi 18.
4. In III Nephi 21, Jesus gave instructions concerning the naming of the Church. What did he tell the people in relation to this matter?
5. What mighty works did Jesus perform among this people, like unto the mighty works He performed among the Jews at Jerusalem?
6. Were any afflicted exempt from his ministrations? Compare the divine way of overcoming sickness with the human way.
7. After commanding the little children to be brought unto him, what did Jesus command the people to do? What did he himself do?
8. What have the people told us in relation to this prayer?
9. Are their comments upon this prayer what we should naturally expect? Why?