

Readings from the Word of God

30 May 2021

Matthew 5:6 (Kempton Project Translation).

“Happy are they who hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be satisfied.”

Mark 10:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

John 3:3-8 (Kempton Project Translation, modified)

³ Jesus... said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless someone be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴ Nicodemus says to Him, “How can a man be born, being old? Can he enter a second time into the womb of his mother, and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless someone be born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The spirit blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so is everyone who is born of the spirit.”

True Christianity §571

There are two states that we all inevitably enter into and go through if we are to turn from an earthly person into a spiritual person. The first state is called *reformation*, the second is called *regeneration*. In the first state we look from our earthly self toward having a spiritual self; being spiritual is what we long for. In the second state we become someone who is both spiritual and earthly. The first state is brought about by truths (these have to be truths related to faith); through these truths we aim to develop charity. The second state is brought about by good actions that come from charity; through these actions we come [more deeply] into truths related to faith.

As the second state begins and progresses, a change takes place in our minds. There is a reversal, because then the love in our will flows into our intellect and leads and drives it to think in agreement and harmony with what we love. Then our actions come from charity and our words come from faith; we develop a sense of the goodness that comes from charity and a perception of the truth that is related to faith; and we are in the Lord and in a state of peace. In brief, we are [regenerated or] reborn.

True Christianity §580

The variety [in how the Lord regenerates different people] is in fact infinite, just like the variety of faces and minds [of the human race]. Despite the variety, however, absolutely all of us are capable of being regenerated and saved in a way that suits the state we are in.

True Christianity §586

We can be regenerated only gradually. Each and every thing that exists in the physical world serves as an illustration of this fact. A seedling does not grow up into a mature tree in a single day. A home is not built in a single day. We do not become full grown in a single day; reaching wisdom takes us even longer. The church is not established—let alone perfected—in a single day. We will make no progress toward a goal unless we first make a start.