THE LAW OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (RIGHT LIVING). THE LAW OF JESUS FROM A LAWYER'S VIEWPOINT

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Principles of the Law of the Kingdom of Heaven (Right Living)

THE LAW OF JESUS FROM A LAWYER'S VIEWPOINT

By

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To E. DeC. W.

PREFACE

This book is written to set forth the truths of Christianity in a way which the author hopes will help to present them as a program for the new social order. There are many who believe that there is a new social order about to come. The teachings of Jesus ought to be the program for this social order. The people of the world should adopt Jesus' program for their constitution. It is the hope of the author that he may have presented this program in such a way that he may be one of those who will help to bring about its adoption.

The nomenclature in the book is, in general, that of Jesus, for, strange as it may seem, Jesus couched his teachings in the language of a law-giver. He was the last and greatest of the Hebrew prophet-law-givers. The classification and analysis are also really those of Jesus, although set forth in more tabular form. The thought is, of course, that of Jesus, and so far as possible it is stated in Jesus' own words. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and most of John are occupied with statements of the principles of Jesus' law, with illustrations of their meaning and application, and with the story of how Jesus lived in absolute conformity to the rules of human conduct which he set forth as ideal. Hence, throughout the book, the closest adherence is kept to the language

PREFACE

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found in the New Testament and proper references are given.

An introductory chapter shows the relation of Jesus' law to prior social development along the line of law. Jesus apparently never took the time to show this historical development, although he was constantly pointing out the fact that his system was related to Hebrew and other legal systems.

The remaining chapters of the book are devoted to the fundamental principles of Jesus' law, i. e., social justice. First are taken up the fundamental human rights and duties, or, as modern lawyers would say, substantive law, both antecedent and remedial, both legal and extralegal. Then are considered the methods evolved by Jesus to make men discharge their duties and obligations — a substitute for what modern lawyers would call adjective law (or legal procedure).

H. E. W.