

# **THE DIRECTORY OF THE DEVOUT LIFE**

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The Directory of the Devout Life by F. B. Meyer

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**F. B. MEYER**

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THE DEVOUT LIFE**



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BY

F. B. MEYER, B.A.

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"TRIED BY FIRE," ETC., ETC.

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## Preface.

**T**HERE is too much of mere sentiment and emotion in what goes by the name of religion, and too little practical Christian living. The tree is not good, the inward parts are not thoroughly cleansed, the rule of Christ is not absolutely dominant in speech and life. People are willing enough to accept freely a forgiveness which He purchased by His blood, but are slow to believe that He is a King, whose law must be obeyed in its jots and tittles.

We can never allow the great objective facts of Christianity, and their attendant doctrines, to sink low on our horizon; but we must give equal prominence to the demands of Christ for a righteousness which shall exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees, and a perfection which shall resemble that of God. We have no right to be content with saying "Lord, Lord;" we must do the things which He says.

In my earliest days I was reared in a school that loved the "juicy" doctrines of Grace, and if a sermon were preached from our pulpit which laid special stress on Christian ethics, during our walk home it would be dismissed as Luther dismissed the general Epistle of James, as "right strawy," and as savouring too much of the moral essay and too little of the Gospel. It seemed as though some of the audience were a little afraid of

Christ as a teacher of morals, whilst willing enough to recognise Him as Saviour.

We understand the matter better now, and have learnt that those who would ascend the Hill of the Lord, and stand in His holy place, must have clean hands and pure hearts, must not lift up their souls to vanity nor swear deceitfully.

Of course, the right kind of obedience is impossible, apart from the Cross and the Spirit. We must be reconciled before we can become obedient children; we must be filled with the Spirit before "the fragrance of Christ" can be manifested through us in every place. The Sermon on the Mount must be read in the transfiguring light which shines backwards from the later events in our Lord's life.

When, however, this is borne in mind, each sentence of that marvellous discourse glistens with celestial radiance, and rings with the music of the Gospel. In such a spirit let us address ourselves to the study of the "Directory of the Devout Life," as it is contained in Matt. v., vi., and vii.

*F. B. Meyer.*

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million.

The number of people who are undernourished in the world is expected to increase to 1 billion by the year 2020. This is a very serious situation.

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## Introductory.

(MATT. v. 1, 2.)

**A**CCOMPANIED by His newly-acquired disciples, our Lord had travelled throughout Galilee, hastening from place to place, from one synagogue to another. Everywhere He proclaimed the Glad Tidings of the Kingdom, and accompanied the preaching by mighty deeds. He healed the sick and cast out demons, dispelling every form of infirmity and disease which He encountered in His triumphal progress. On the sunlit path of the Prince of Life all the sad results of human sin fled, as the wreathed mists of morning before sunrise.

It was a morning without clouds. His fame spread far and near throughout all Syria. The people, who, between the exactions of the Pharisees and the hair-splitting of the Scribes, were like harried sheep, welcomed His advent with a great outburst of joy. On the one hand, He was so accessible in His sympathy; on the other, so transcendent in His purity and grace. A general impulse of hope and expectation was diffused abroad, and they sought out all who were sick and diseased in mind and body, to bring them into His gracious and health-giving presence. In addition to these crowds of sympathisers and friends were groups of curiosity-mongers and sightseers, of inquirers and devout souls, who followed Him, with a great expectancy in their