



The Lovely Jesus—
The World's
Greatest Teacher

Luke 6:20–38
James 2

Gouldian finch or rainbow finch—Australia

For three years and a half the disciples were under the instruction of the **greatest Teacher the world has ever known**. By personal contact and association, Christ trained them for His service. Day by day they walked and talked with Him, hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden, and seeing the manifestation of His power in behalf of the sick and the afflicted. Sometimes He taught them, sitting among them on the mountainside; sometimes beside the sea or walking by the way, He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom of God. (AA 17.2)

How did Christ teach them?

- ❖ By walking and talking with them
- ❖ By sitting among them on the mountainside—the Sermon on the Mount was a teaching sermon
- ❖ By example, as when he spoke words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden
- ❖ By manifesting his power in behalf of the sick and afflicted

What did Christ teach them?

- ❖ The mysteries of the kingdom of God—in the Sermon on the Mount, for example
- ❖ The truths of salvation
- ❖ That the Gentiles were to be fellow heirs with them in salvation—the breaking down of the middle wall of partition
- ❖ That in God's kingdom there are no territorial lines, no caste, and no aristocracy

. . . the breaking down of the “middle wall of partition” between Israel and the other nations—
the truth that “the Gentiles should be fellow heirs” with the Jews and “partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel.” Ephesians 2:14; 3:6.
(AA 19.3)

. . . the truth that in God's kingdom there are
no territorial lines, no caste, no aristocracy . . .
(AA 19.3)

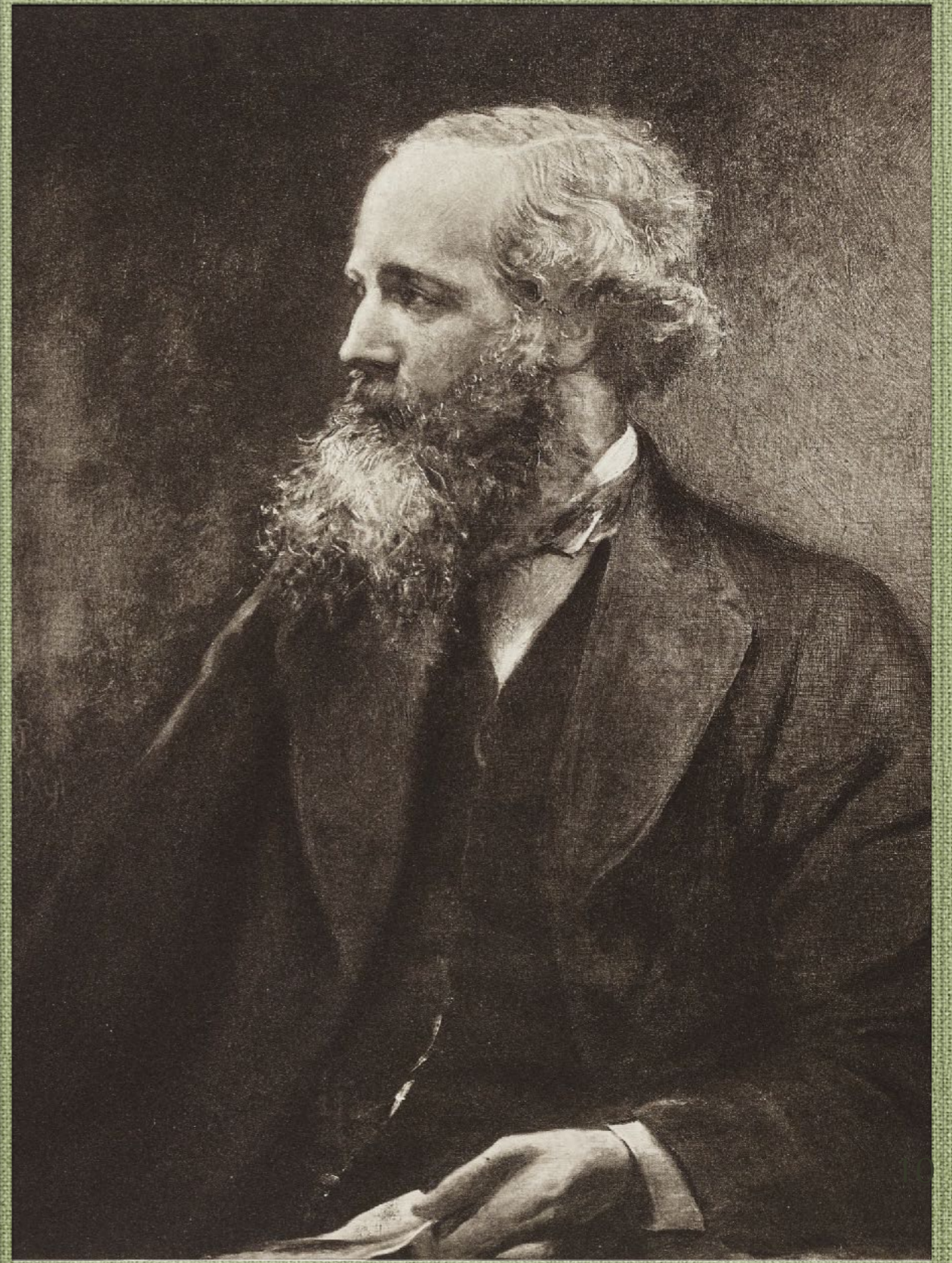
What else did Christ teach the disciples?

- ❖ He sought to encourage them and prepare them for the future, and he was plain and direct about the future. (See AA 21)
- ❖ He knew they would be as sheep among wolves, would suffer persecution, be cast out of the synagogues, and thrown into prison and that some would suffer death due to witnessing for him and that he was the Messiah.

- ❖ He sought to strengthen their faith, leading them to look forward to the joys that await the **overcomer**.
- ❖ After his resurrection, he opened their understanding to the Scriptures, and their faith was fully established. They reached the place where they could say, "**I know whom I have believed.**"

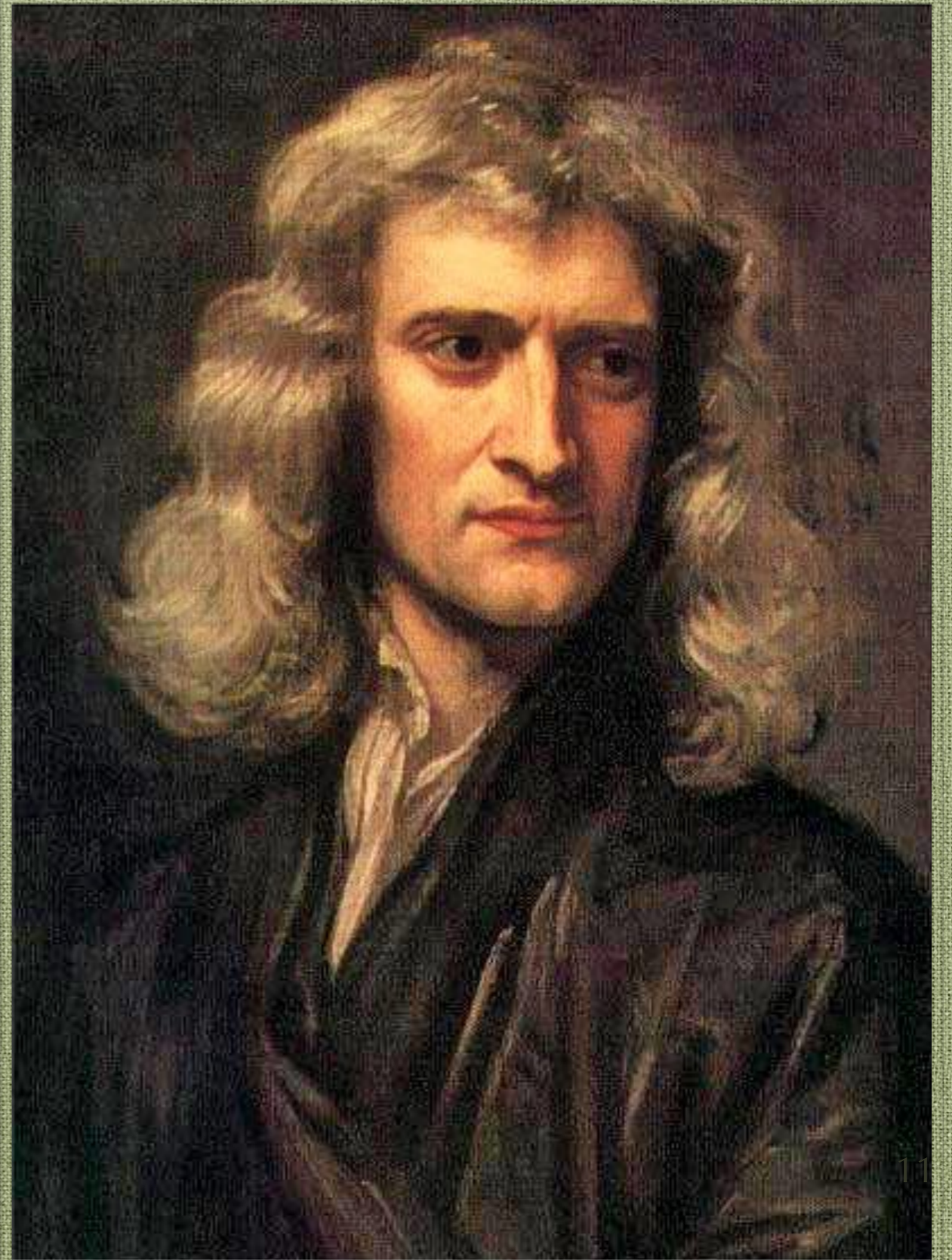
AN OVERCOMER

“On the walls of his study in Berlin in 1920 Albert Einstein had three portraits—Sir Isaac Newton, James Clerk Maxwell, and Michael Faraday because he believed that the greatest change in the intellectual structure of our knowledge of the physical world came from Faraday’s experimental work . . . and its interpretation by the Scottish genius James Clerk Maxwell” (Sir John Meurig Thomas, lecture on Michael Faraday).



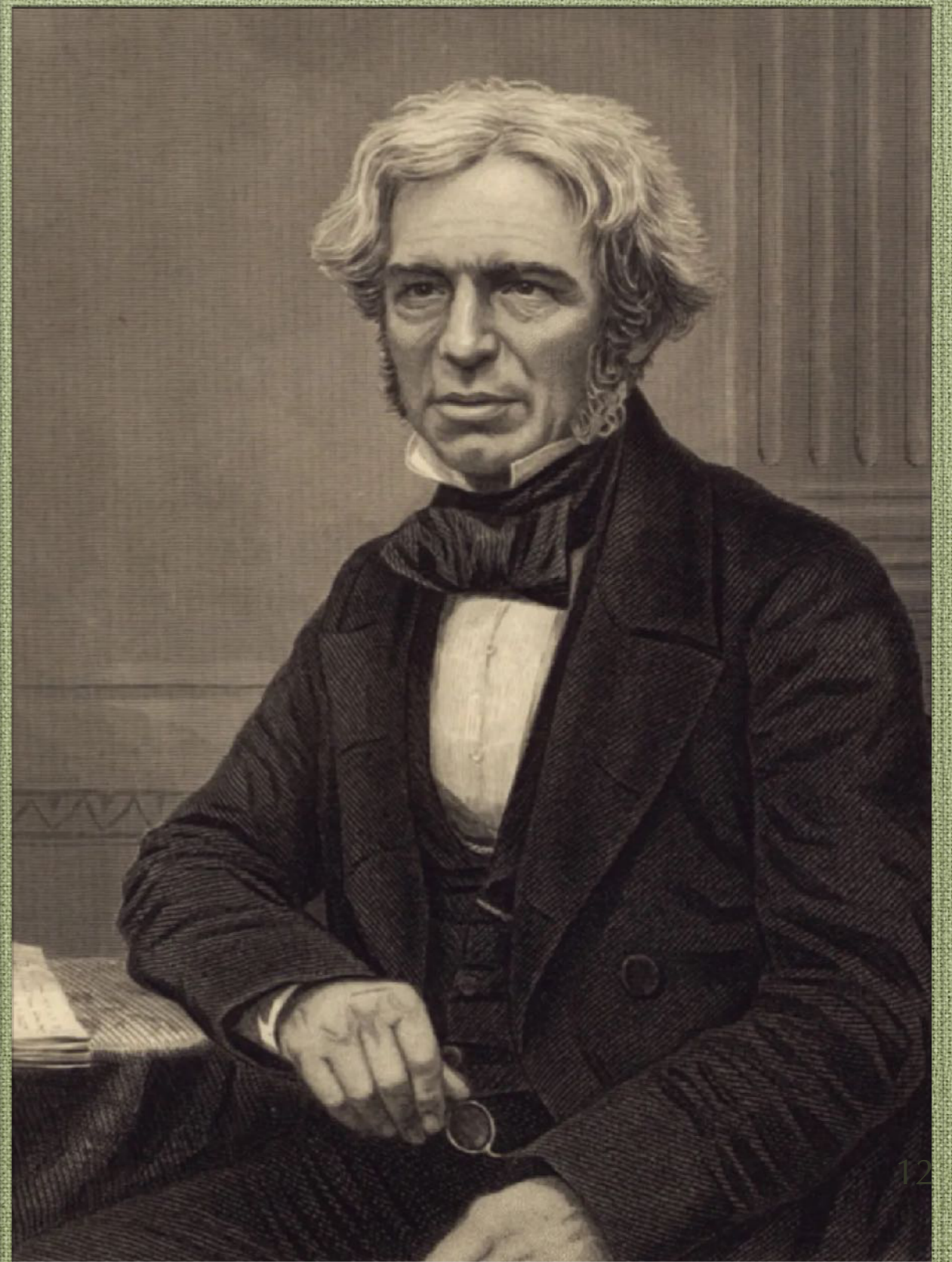
James Clerk Maxwell

“Now Newton’s laws are so well known and so important and so vital for us to understand so many things. You can compute precisely the second that sunrise and sunset occurs. You can predict the trajectories of planets, comets, and space vehicles. You can also tell the precise ebb and flow of the tides in all the seas and the oceans of the earth” (Ibid.).



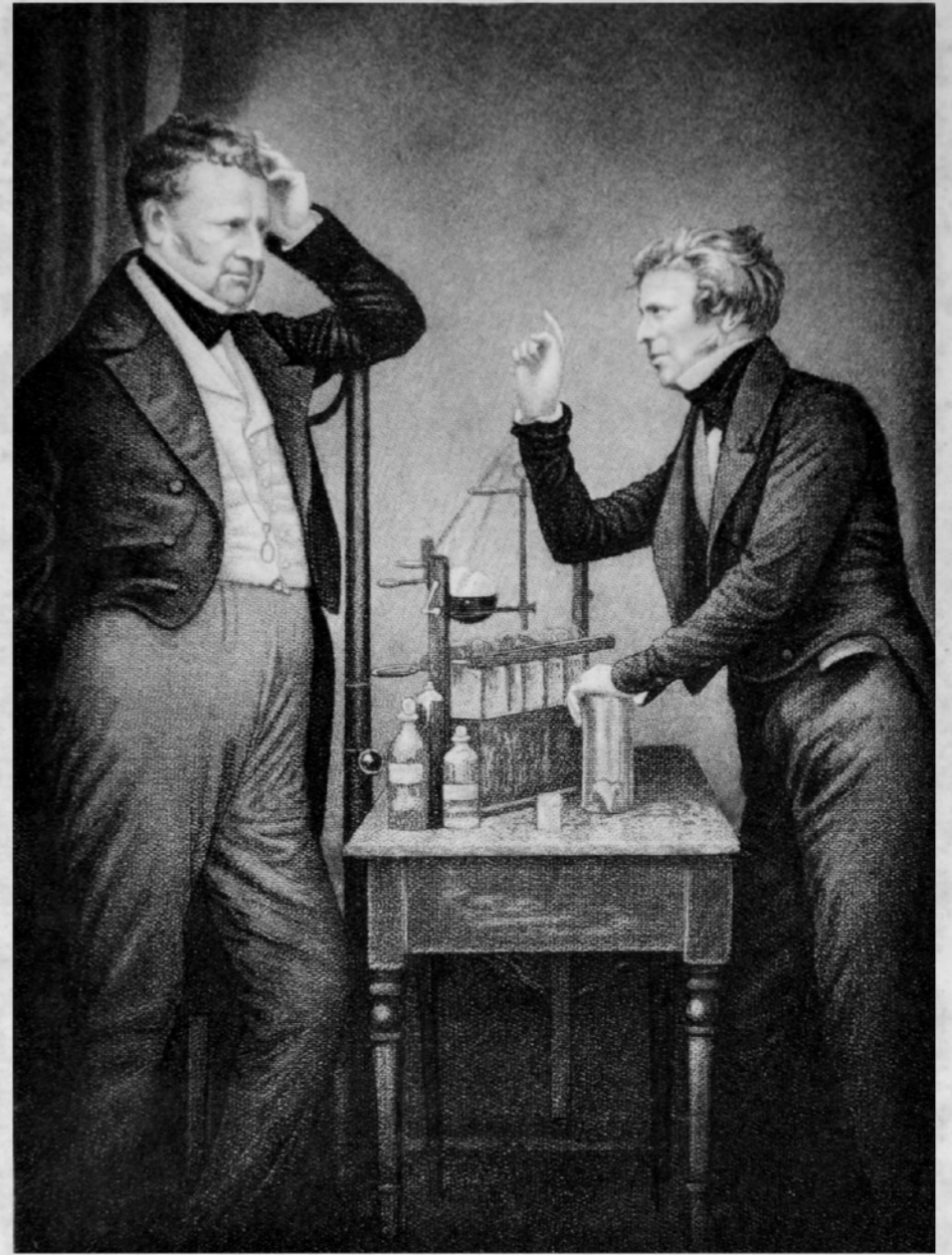
Isaac Newton

“But Newton’s laws, important as they are, cannot be of any help to you, not one iota, if you want to understand how radio waves can be transmitted or received, how the television or radio works, how the CD works, how WIFI works, and how Twitter works. All of these things go back step-by-step to the work done in the quiet laboratory on Albemarle Street” (Ibid.).



Michael Faraday

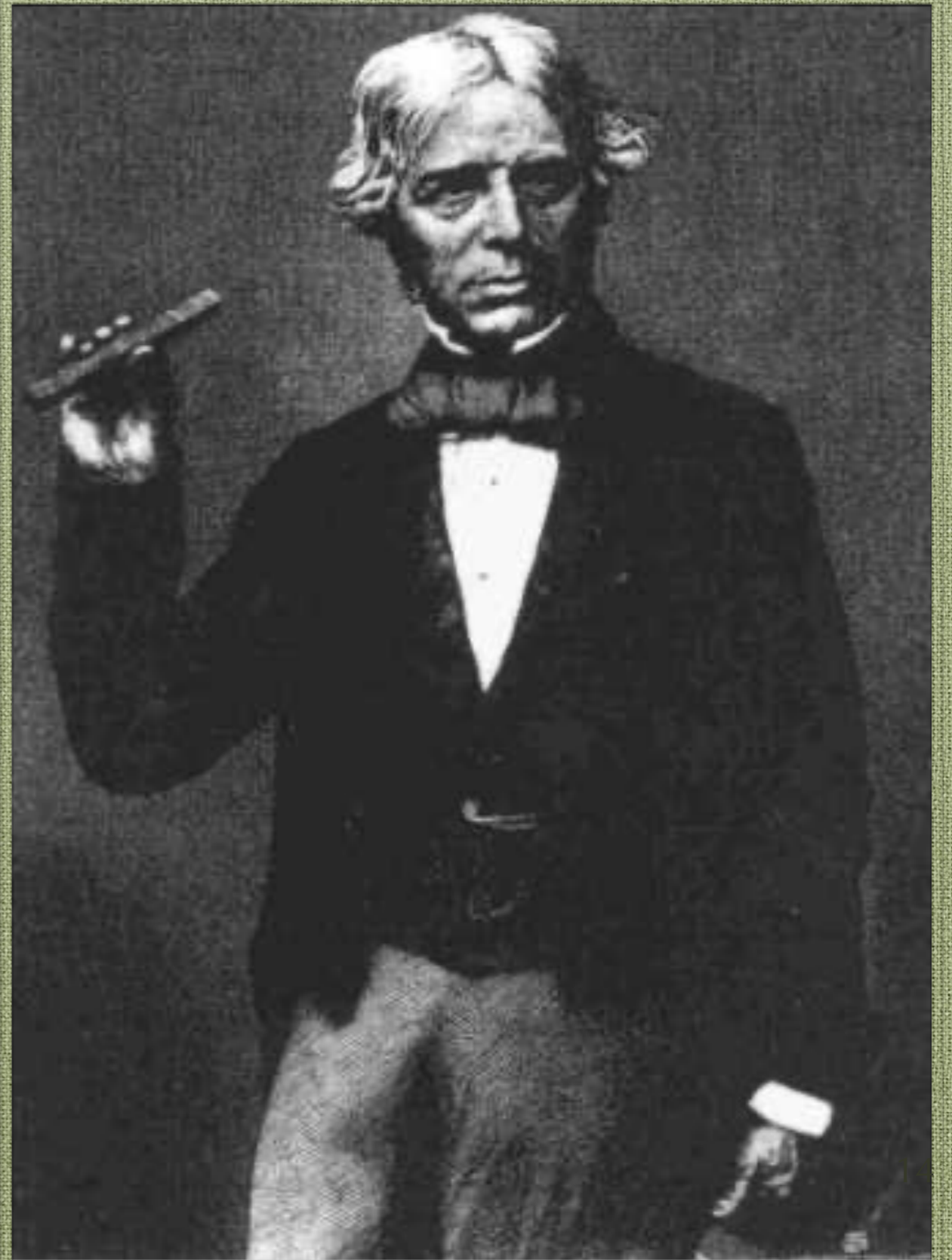
“When we consider the magnitude and extent of his discoveries and their influence on the progress of science and of industry, there is no honor too great to pay to the memory of Faraday, one of the greatest scientific discoverers of all time.” Ernest Rutherford



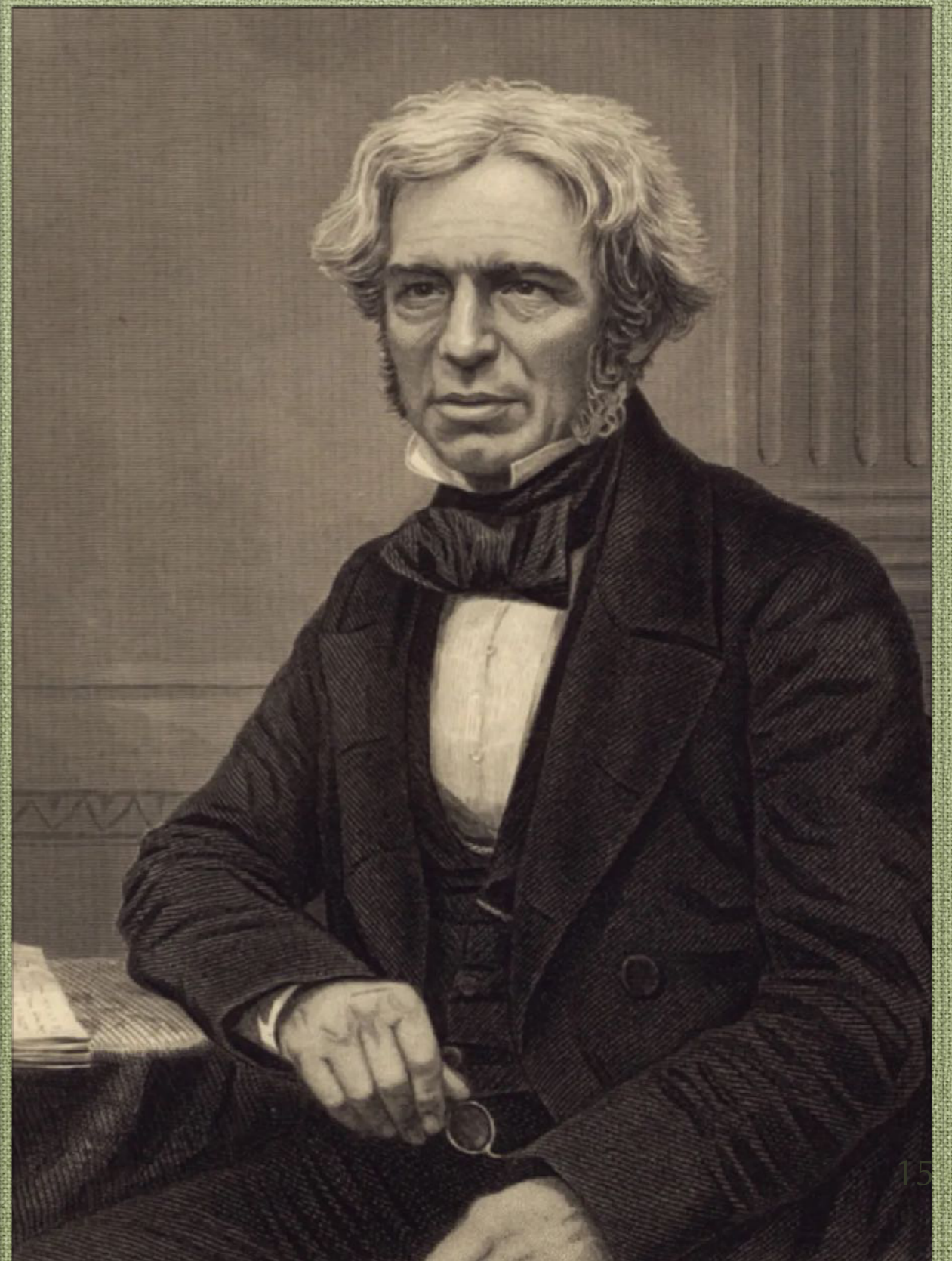
ENGRAVED BY GEO. BARCLAY CURRIER, 37, SOHO, FROM A LAGUERRETYPE BY M^r BEARD

Michael Faraday 13

“Had there been Nobel Prizes in Michael Faraday’s day, he probably would have won several. His discoveries included:” (Thomas)



Electromagnetic induction
The laws of electrolysis
The magnetic properties of matter and the foundations of magnetochemistry
The discovery the paramagnetism of oxygen
Discovery of benzene and the analysis of its composition
The Faraday effect
The notion of a field
Discovered minute quantities of gas bound to the surface of platinum could diminish its ability to promote chemical reaction
Studied the scattering of visible light which led to the explanation of the blueness of the sky, the colors of birds and butterflies, and more
Bunsen burner, early form
System of oxidation numbers



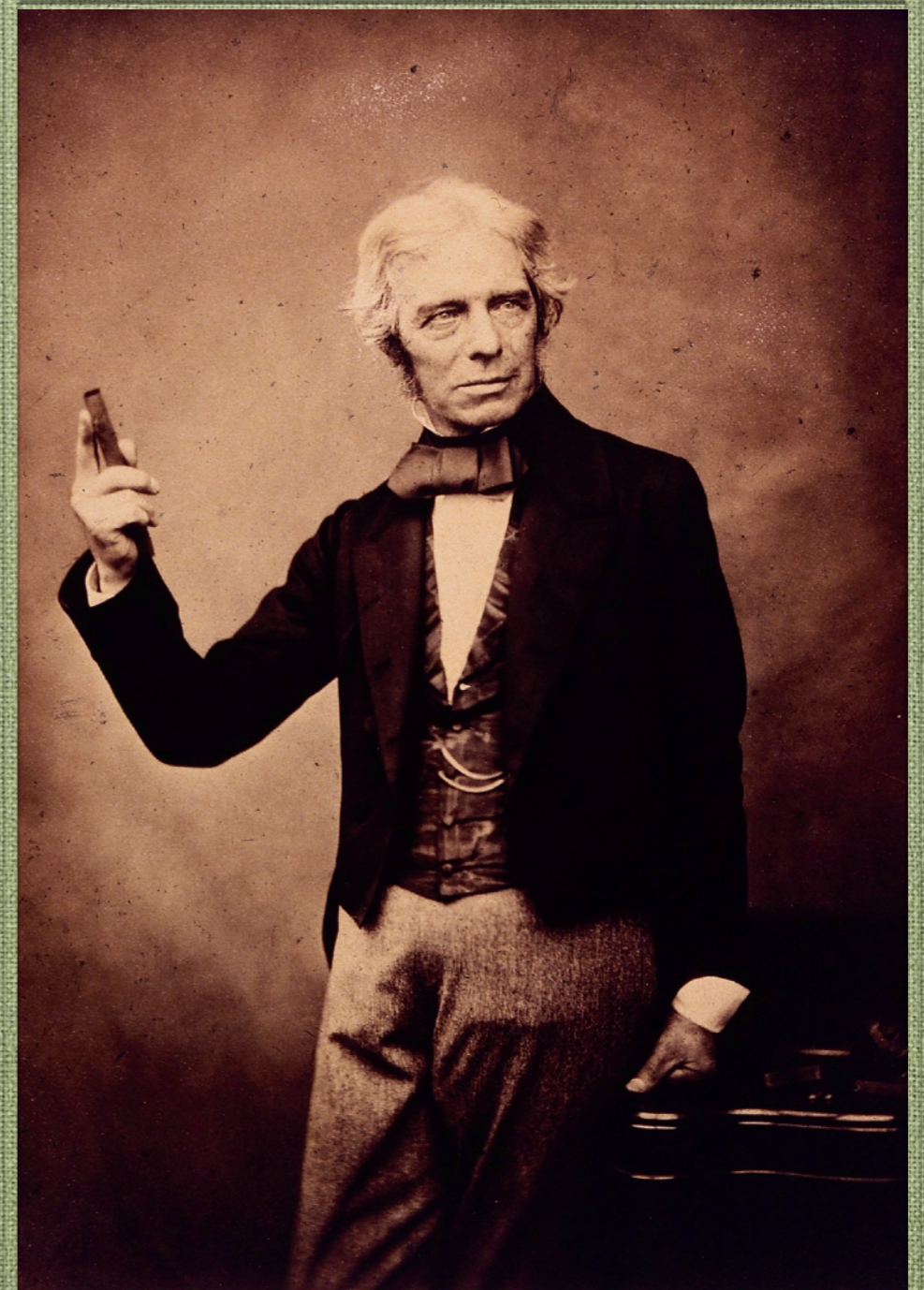
Michael Faraday

In his diaries he wrote of his successes as well as his failures, and they give a sense of “his abundance of optimism . . . , self-control, and self-criticism. There is also the sense of wonder with which, as a natural philosopher, he contemplated the world and the forces and mechanisms that hold it together” (Sir John Meurig Thomas, “The Genius of Michael Faraday”).

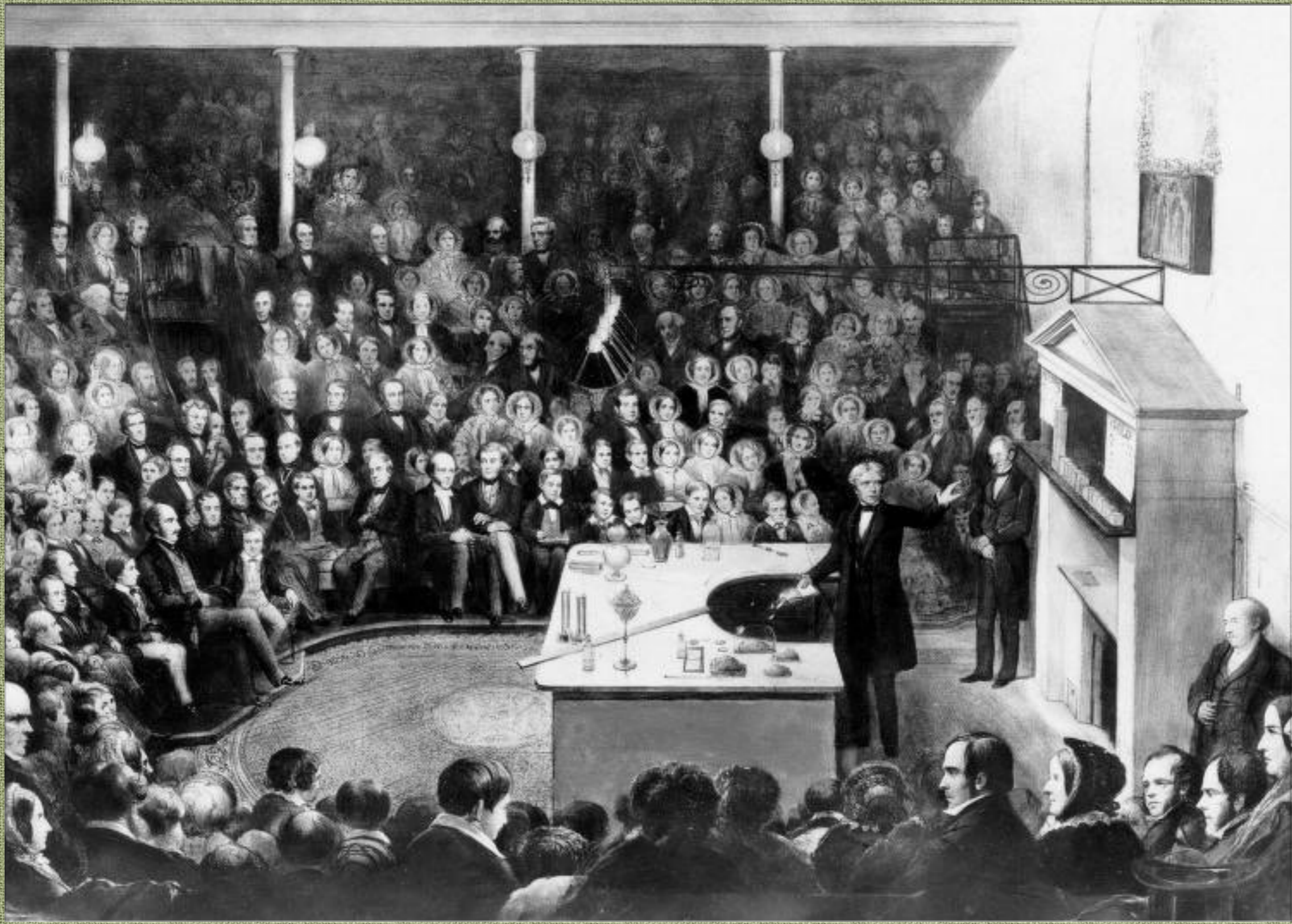


Michael Faraday

But Faraday came from a poor family and was hungry many times. He had a speech impediment (he couldn't pronounce "r") and received very little formal education. Yet he gave lectures to large crowds and was invited to dine with Queen Victoria of England.

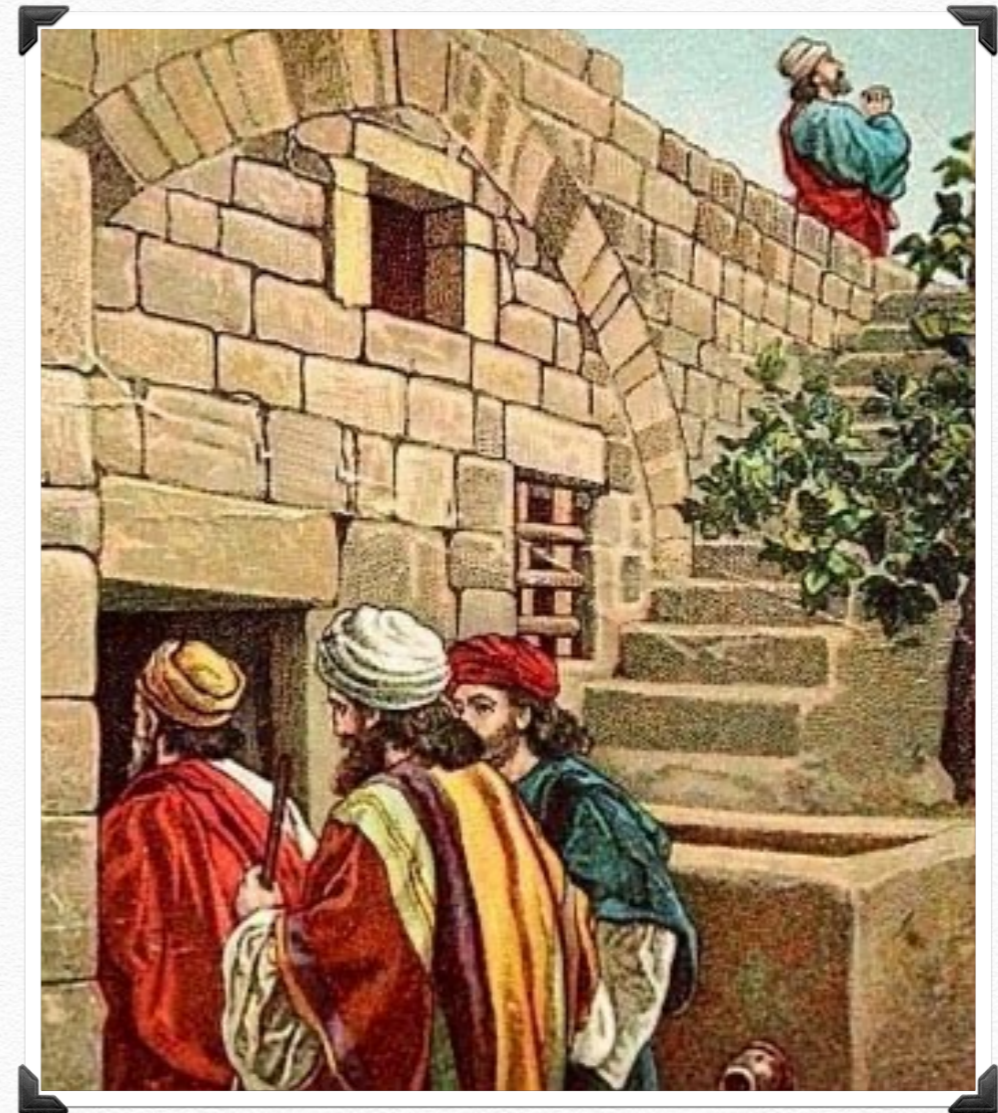


Michael Faraday



THE APOSTLES WERE HUMBLE MEN

- ❖ The fact that they were humble men would not diminish their influence, but increase it; for the minds of their hearers would be carried from them to the Saviour . . .
(AA 22.3)



With gladness and rejoicing, God and the angels beheld this scene [the ordination of the twelve on the mountain]. The Father knew that from these men the light of heaven would shine forth; that the words spoken by them as they witnessed for His Son, would echo from generation to generation **till the close of time.** (AA 18.3)

Luke 6:20, 24

Those who are rich and honorable in their own eyes do not ask in faith, and receive the blessing of God. They feel that they are full, therefore they go away empty. Those who know that they cannot possibly save themselves, or of themselves do any righteous action, are the ones who appreciate the help that Christ can bestow. **They are the poor in spirit**, whom He declares to be blessed. (*MB 7.1*)

The seraphim around the throne are so filled with reverential awe as they behold the glory of God, that **they do not for an instant look upon themselves with admiration.** Their praise is for the Lord of hosts. (*GW 1915, 21.2*)

James 2:5

- ❖ He sought to **prepare them for the future**. He knew they would be as sheep among wolves, would suffer persecution, be cast out of the synagogues, thrown into prison, and that some would suffer death because of their faith in him.
- ❖ With gladness and rejoicing, God and the angels beheld this scene. The Father knew that from these men the light of heaven would shine forth; that the words spoken by them as they witnessed for His Son, would echo from generation to generation **till the close of time**. (AA 18.3)
- ❖ After his resurrection, he opened their understanding to the Scriptures, and their faith was fully established. “They reached the place where they could say, ‘**I know whom I have believed.**’” (AA 27)

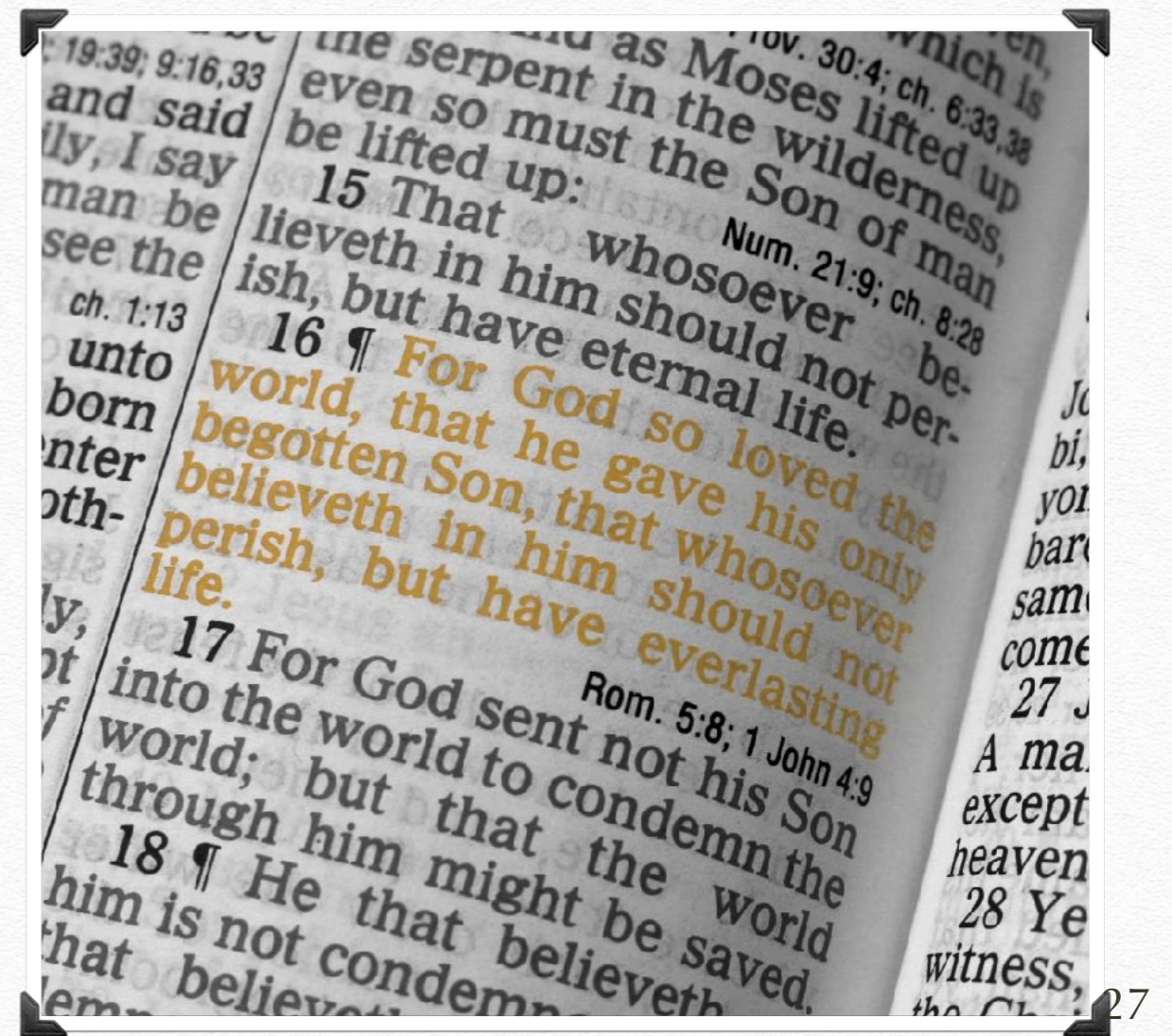
Prepare Them for the Future

- ❖ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)
- ❖ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17)
- ❖ . . . for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10)



Know in Whom You Have Believed

- ❖ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)
- ❖ Go to where he has revealed himself—in the Bible, in prayer, in nature, in the Spirit of Prophecy writings, in the testimonies of faith of the lives of others, in heavenly music, in reviewing the blessings of God in our own lives, in the assemblies of like faith



- ❖ Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord . . . (Isaiah 1:18)
- ❖ Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15). Daniel purposed in his heart . . . (Daniel 1:8)
- ❖ If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. (Isaiah 1:19)
- ❖ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ❖ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness . . . (Matthew 6:33)
- ❖ Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. (Mark 13:33)



It is not enough to perceive the loving-kindness of God, to see the benevolence, the fatherly tenderness, of His character. It is not enough to discern the wisdom and justice of His law, to see that it is founded upon the eternal principle of love. Paul the apostle saw all this when he exclaimed, "I consent unto the law that it is good." "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." But he added, in the bitterness of his soul-anguish and despair, "I am carnal, sold under sin." Romans 7:16, 12, 14. . . . Such is the cry that has gone up from burdened hearts in all lands and in all ages. To all, there is but one answer, "**Behold the Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. (*Steps to Christ* 19.1)

And the only way to God is Christ. He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by *Me*.” John 14:6.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. **Nature** speaks to our senses without ceasing. The open heart will be impressed with the love and glory of God as revealed through the works of His hands. The listening ear can hear and understand the communications of God through the things of nature. The green fields, the lofty trees, the buds and flowers, the passing cloud, the falling rain, the babbling brook, the glories of the heavens, speak to our hearts, and invite us to become acquainted with Him who made them all.

(SC 85.1)

As your senses delight in the attractive loveliness of the earth, think of the world that is to come, that shall never know the blight of sin and death; where the face of nature will no more wear the shadow of the curse. Let your imagination **picture the home of the saved**, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. (SC 86.2)

God speaks to us through His providential workings and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. . . .

God speaks to us in His word. (SC 87)

Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual relationship with our heavenly Father. (SC 93)

Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life. . . . Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.

(SC 93)

Of the poor in spirit Jesus says, "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This kingdom is not, as Christ's hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness. The **ensign** of the Messiah's reign is distinguished by the likeness of the Son of man. **His subjects are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted for righteousness' sake.** The kingdom of heaven is theirs. (*MB* 8.1)

An ensign is a commissioned officer of the lowest rank.

He was 23 and
commissioned as an
ensign on the
battleship USS
California at Pearl
Harbor.



Navy Ensign Herbert C. Jones.







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