

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 144

SUBJECT: Sacrament – July 14th, 2019

Broken Spirit

Golden Text: Psalm 51 : 17

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart.”

This made me think about the first Beatitude:
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

In her book, Irma Stewart says that the poor in spirit feel their spiritual need. She goes on ...human existence is like sleepwalking
“Hence a human sense of things must needs awaken.” The only other time that, ... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ... declared is the eighth Beatitude that says *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* Matthew 5:10

Thank you, Lesson writers! *****

Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines “break” (broken) – to subdue the passions; to train to obedience; to make tractable, as to break a horse.

I love Hymn 69; it often helps me to subdue unruly errors:

“Give me, O Lord, an understanding heart,
That I may learn to know myself in Thee,
To spurn the wrong and choose the better part
And thus from sinful bondage be set free.
Give me, O Lord, a meek and contrite heart,
That I may learn to quell all selfish pride,
Bowing before Thee, see Thee as Thou art
And ’neath Thy sheltering presence safely hide.

Give me, O Lord, a gentle, loving heart,
That I may learn to be more tender, kind,
And with Thy healing touch, each wound
and smart
With Christly bands of Love and Truth to bind.”

Abide in the Morale of Truth

“One must abide in the *morale* of truth or he cannot demonstrate the divine Principle.” S & H p. 456

Biblical definitions of “abide” – 1. to remain stable or fixed in a state of love; to stand firm; to continue in a place; 2. to conform to the rules; 3. to accept without objection; to acquiesce in will.

Definition of “morale” – a sense of common purpose. A good example is the mission of our church.

“Be firm in your understanding that the divine Mind governs, and that in Science man reflects God’s government.” (*Science and Health*, p. 393:16)

“Embosomed deep in Thy dear love, Held in Thy law, I stand.” (Hymn 134) Such a beautiful lesson! Thank you, Lesson-writer.

Open Your Ears

“To those buried in the belief of sin and self, living only for pleasure or the gratification of the senses, he said in substance: Having eyes ye see not, and having ears ye hear not; lest ye should understand and be converted, and I might heal you. He taught that the material senses shut out Truth and its healing power.” by Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health*, page 38: 26-32

There has been much instruction at Plainfield about the necessity of learning to listen to God. I am learning that it is impossible to live this Science of Christ without hearing God and following His messages. The above citation from our Lesson this week shows the connection of self-centered beliefs and shutting out Truth. Shutting out is to prevent. The opposite are the qualities such as facilitate, unclog, cultivate, encourage, foster, nurture, promote, allow, let, permit.

Sunday's Roundtable addressed the need to unself thought. There are many tools and instructions here to help us do this. Listening to the birds the other day, the idea came to me that the birds are singing for all to hear. Some don't hear them because they don't focus on the sound, perhaps are distracted, uninterested, or blocked out by earphones. Many lovers of birds seek out the sounds and can identify them. There is a teaching testimony by Mary Beth Singleterry posted on the Website, *How to Hear God's Messages*, that got me thinking about whether I was really working on hearing God's voice which is always there, like the birds.

Is My Relationship with God MOST Important?

Luke 14: 27 *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*
33 *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

What can't I give up for Christ's sake? Put in other words, Is my relationship with God the most important thing above all else? This question starts some deep examining of my honest commitment to God. I found to what extent certain family ties and traditions would challenge this commitment. But to think that all that is required to be given up are those things that bind us to the "flesh;" what needs to go for each of us to own our true heritage of Life in God, Spirit. This includes the wrong material concepts of man, birth, death, our relationships to each other, holidays, etc..

Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy both showed great examples of how we should answer this question. They both protesting against all evil (in this sense, evil is anything fleshly...false material senses,) bore the cross and won the crown. Am I doing this? I am grateful that I find my answers by sincerely praying for my Father's will, not my will to be done. That puts Him first and gives me peace. This makes a disciple....a follower.

SUBJECT: Life – July 21st, 2019

Life Abundant

"John 10: 9,10 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 I am come that they might have **life**, and that **they might have it more abundantly.**"
(Emphasis added)

Life abundant. Abundant from Webster's 1828 means Plentiful; in great quantity; fully sufficient; as an abundant supply. In scripture, abounding; having in great quantity; overflowing with. Meaning no limitations, no imperfections, nothing that interferes with the fullness of this Life! Fears, sins, falsehoods of any kind, pains, colds, accidents, lack of money, strength, recreation, right companions, all have nothing to do with true Life. So, if any of these suggestions tempt, I have a right to ask... "Where is my abundant Life?" What am I permitting to steal that Christ given Life abundant from me?

Thank God, Mary Baker Eddy, through Christian Science, has explained how Christ Jesus taught that all can have this. They have both taught us what true Life is; it is Eternal, not in matter, "Life is not limited." See *Science and Health*, page 468.

Only as I claim my Christ-Mind, which is the All Knowing, can I see my ONENESS with God and not deny myself the Life that is abundant.

“God *is* with thee in all that thou doest.”
(Genesis 21:22)*****

Very grateful for this reminder that Life is abundant and not limited, and this is ours to prove. This made

me think of the sermon ‘Life’ by Mary Baker Eddy, which includes these extracts “Health, life and mortals will will never reach their maximum until we relinquish the belief that matter has aught to do with Life” and “I am glad there is but one God, but one Life, and this one is shadowed forth in order, beauty and goodness. I am glad that evil hath no life or immortality, that mortal pain-giving sources are but the things of belief, dreams and not realities, the vagaries of the mortal, and not the immortal thought; and that this shall sometime be learned and the body be free as the pinions of a bird, and every sense of weakness or of pain shall disappear.” *****

VAGARY. A wandering of the thoughts; a wild freak; a whim; a whimsical purpose
(Webster’s Dictionary 1828).

Very grateful to the writer of this week’s Lesson.

"Keep Thy Heart"

“*Keep thy heart with all diligence;*” Proverbs 4:2
Strong’s Hebrew 5341: To watch, guard, keep
Bible study tools refer to the heart as: the mind, character, will, feelings, intention, and desire.

The breastplate (righteousness, holiness) shields the heart (Eph. 6: 14) from the darts of the devil ... I can guard my heart by using what I have learned here, based on clear and correct teachings of the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings.

Some examples: watch thought, continually express gratitude, find ways to be active in working for God, examine my motives, listen to rebukes or correction, don’t take offense, sing hymns, don’t indulge in negative thinking, keep a statement of Truth with me to use during the day, look for and

see God everywhere, stand for right, talk with God, pray for others. What a blessing to be part of an active healing church that helps us be who God made us to be! *****

The Vanity of Empty Works

cit. 6. Ecclesiastes 2

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all *was* vanity and vexation of spirit, and *there was* no profit under the sun.

From the 1828 Webster’s:

Vanity

2. Fruitless desire or endeavor.

3. Trifling labor that produces no good.

4. Emptiness; untruth

Reading that verse this week, I’ve been thinking, “I know what you mean, Preacher.” Sometimes I wonder how much of my previous existence was “Fruitless desire or endeavor.” After many years of laboring without God in my life, I was left very empty and vexed, and with little to no profit – of any kind – to show for it.

cit. 11. 264: 28-31

When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man’s spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God’s creation, — all the glories of earth and heaven and man.

This statement has been proven more and more true to me these past few years. But even in the first few weeks of God bringing me here, there was enough of a change that the work I was given to do didn’t feel fruitless or empty. I have a great fondness for thinking back on that time, because of how quickly I seemed to be brought from the verge of oblivion to the beginning of a great and wonderful journey – “from darkness to light” as said in that last Fruitage in our textbook. I am so grateful for Christian Science, and for this church: I love to be a part of this mission as it reaches others. I know there are people out there right now feeling as bleak as I once did, and I am so thankful to God that He has given

the world this Science, and this church. When their own empty works bring them low enough, they will call to God, as I did, and He will answer! Thank you! *****

A Blessing and A Curse

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.” Deut. 11: 26-28

This is cause for rejoicing. It is an assurance that God’s Law of divine Justice is in full and complete operation, and that “the wicked shall not go unpunished” – any evil belief shall not escape this divine Law.

“Everything that announces itself as unlike good is instantly under the law which banishes it.” —
Laura Sargent *****

In working at correcting my way of thinking, I have found great help from this Bible verse which ties in with your post, thank you very much:

Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; **I will repay, saith the Lord.*** (Emphasis added) *****

Thanks for these posts. I love the simplicity of this caution; obey and do as God wants and be blessed or willingly keep friendship with wickedness and be cursed (which from my understanding of Science means to me, let wickedness as it destroys itself take you along with it due to your attachment to it). Thus we should all strive towards righteousness...

A couple of citations from the Bible and *Science and Health* completely destroy evil’s seeming victory over Truth: Psalm 34:

21 *Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.*

22 *The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.* From *Science and Health*, p. 239: “The wicked man is not the ruler of his upright neighbor. Let it be understood that success in error is defeat in Truth. The watchword of Christian Science is Scriptural: ‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts.’”

Many Bible stories affirm the victory of those who walked humbly with their God trusting all to Him and doing as He directs. From *Divinity Course and General Collectanea*, The Bluebook, pg. 228

“Never resent a wound from anyone, but always leave it to God, to **avenge and heal**. He will rightly reward; you cannot. Forgiveness is forgetfulness of sin, disease and all error in others and in ourselves. No wrong is forgiven until it is forgotten. If this is not done, it works like remembering disease; it makes you a sinner; it grows chronic and incurable. If we do not do this, it does us more harm than our enemies.” (Emphasis added)

I love the fact that when we leave things to God, after doing what is only ours to do, there is healing!

Fountain of Life

“For with thee *is* the fountain of life:” (Ps.36:9) God is my fountain of life; is all action, governs all my movement with fluidity and grace; bubbling up energy, leaping and dancing within me. God, Life, fills me with joy and refreshment, and quenches and satisfies all my desires. This verse reminds me of the “Sparklets” fountain water show at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3aftuao>

God IS Life

“He is our Life, the only Life we need or can have.”
Bicknell Young 1937