

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 192

SUBJECT: Sacrament — July 11th, 2021

Our Eucharist

“Our Eucharist is spiritual communion with the one God. Our bread, ‘which cometh down from heaven,’ is Truth. Our cup is the cross. Our wine the inspiration of Love, the draught our Master drank and commended to his followers. (*S&H* 35:25-29)

Every time we do a Watch, in unity or individually, *this is spiritual communion with God*, — *our* Eucharist, *our* Holy Communion. The Truth that comes to us during our Watch feeds us, like bread from heaven, and empowers our Watch. Our Watch is a cup we drink with Christ, empty of all personal desires and petitions. Then Love, love for God and mankind, which motivates our Watch, acts as the wine of inspiration, pouring in spontaneously and abundantly healing thoughts from God. Thank you, God, for these Watches.

The Engrafted Word

Responsive Reading: (James 1:21) “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”. The 1828 Webster’s Dictionary points from *engraft* to *ingraft*, and gives these definitions:
3. To plant or introduce something foreign into that which is native, for the purpose of propagation.
4. To set or fix deep and firm.

Before I arrived here, I definitely had that *greater quantity than is wanted* (1828 definition of *superfluity*) of wrong thinking and acting. Christian Science felt indeed foreign at first; but with time, it has fixed itself so deeply within my consciousness that more-and-more I recognize

Science as my native state from which all new growth stems, and all right thinking and acting are made possible. What a wonderful way for salvation to take place!

Thank you so much for this lesson!

The Myth of “Meekness = Weakness”

“...receive with meekness the engrafted word.” (James 1:21). The ancient Greek word for meekness has nothing to do with becoming a human doormat, but refers to the taming of something wild (like the wild horses captured, tamed, and trained by the Greek army to be war horses). This word also refers to the pruning (hence, “taming”) of a plant (tree, hedge, vine) previously allowed to grow in unrestrained wildness, without proper care or management.

The great English poet, Robert Southey, put it this way:

“Behold this vine, I found it a wild tree
Whose wanton strength had [swollen] into
Irregular twigs ...

Wasting the sap and strength
That should have given forth fruit.
But when I pruned the tree,
Then it grew temperate in its vain expense
Of useless leaves, and knotted, as thou seest,
Into these full, clear, clusters, to repay
The hand whose foresight wounded it.”

This pruning process is what the original Greek of James 1:21 is all about. Pruning means subtracting something. Grafting means adding something. James balances pruning with grafting in the second half of the scripture, encouraging me to embrace not only loss of something old (pruning) but gain of something new (grafting).

Since “meekness” means pruning all thought of weakness, lack, or limitation from my life, God grant me grace to tame any undisciplined tendrils of thought that all the branches of my imagination be barren of sense, fruitful of Spirit, for thought always “passes from God to man,” not vice versa. (*Science and Health*, pgs.103-104, 284).

Thank you. Your words above assisted me in understanding more so what shines out now as an important word – ‘meekness’.

The Sermon on the Mount is the backdrop. ‘Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.’ Mortal mind has deluded human beings into believing that people have separate minds, and exist (somehow) separate and apart from Divine Mind. This sense of separation is the illusion – the error – that has to be understood and overcome. And, thankfully, this truth Divine Science puts forever before us.

Love, Truth, and Life are the 3 golden pillars of Divine Science, and it seems these 3 express themselves to human sense as a fourth pillar... meekness. The word ‘meekness’ assists us to comprehend what Jesus asks us to give up in The Beatitudes. That is, he asks us to give up the delusion, the error, that we are separate or apart from Divine Mind, God. Furthermore, Jesus asks us to live in surrender to Divine Mind – God – free from erroneous claims, beliefs and opinions. A tall order! Yet, Mary Baker Eddy, the Christly one, proved this tall order was achievable.

Meekness teaches us that we do not have to be Goliaths fighting the world of matter to be successful; rather, we can aim to be like David, who became an expression of Love, Truth and Life... and who, ultimately, became a wonderful expression of meekness. David surrendered to Divine Mind and followed its direction. He put mortal mind in its place by ignoring ‘the superiority of error’.

In meekness, selfishness, anger, hate, hostility, sickness, even death are conquered by Love, Compassion, and Divine Understanding. (This divine triad is not related in any sense to weakness

or to people-pleasing). Divine Love, Wisdom, Spiritual Strength, Insight and Intuition stem from, and express, meekness. Thus meekness, as a divine attribute, is blessed as Jesus declared.

Jesus, as well as Mary Baker Eddy, demonstrated meekness by surrendering personal sense to God as All, as Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience. By demonstrating meekness, Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy inherited the earth without paying homage to claims of mortal belief.

Meekness, then, may be expressed as Divine Science demonstrating itself on earth. Illimitable Love, Divine Truth and Eternal Life express on earth as meekness... (Refer: *S&H* pg. 92: 21-30).

I Will Have Mercy, and Not Sacrifice:

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice.” (Matt. 9:13)
“Jesus speaks as one having a mission.— ἀμαρτωλοῦς; and it is to the sinful, in pursuance of the principle embodied in the prophetic oracle — a mission of mercy.” (Expositor’s Greek Testament)
“I desire mercy. I require mercy rather than sacrifice, Hosea 6:6. It is a protest by the prophet against the unloving, insincere formalist of his day. ... Sacrifice without mercy is no acceptable sacrifice. To love sinners is a better fulfilling of the law than to stand aloof from them.” *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*.

This Bible lesson gives me a deeper understanding of mercy as Love expressed by Christ Jesus. The Pharisees whom he was speaking to had such a limited, selfish view of God. It was much easier to do a few acts of “sacrifice” and then go home. They were comfortable and did not want to change or get their hands dirty. The Christ came to rid mankind of sin by tirelessly ministering, teaching, helping, praying, not attaching sin to mankind, withstanding the hatred directed toward him, willing to be very unpopular, and suffer being misunderstood even to save just one soul. What love for God and man to do this for us and to demonstrate this precept for us to emulate – to have

mercy. He was showing us the true sense of church.

SUBJECT: Life — July 18th, 2021

Eternal Life

‘Eternal Life’, as a divine gift, is beyond human comprehension. Sin, sickness, disease and death smote Everlasting Life. These errors of belief deny immortality.

The golden book - *Science and Health* - presents as a supreme opportunity to understand Eternal Life as expressed and reflected by Christ Jesus. Students of *Science and Health* are asked unashamedly by Mary Baker Eddy to strive to reciprocate Jesus’ understanding of Love, Truth, and Life, especially when challenged, even as the faith of his disciples was often challenged with lack of understanding.

Jesus serves as a mirror. He presents to the world the gift of Eternal Life. Through *Science and Health* in open and subtle ways, lessons that need to be learned are brought to the surface. In an inevitable, now-or-never manner, it is up to every student of Truth to accept and learn or balk and avoid these lessons.

My heart sings with gratitude to Jesus, to his disciples, as well to Mary Baker Eddy for guiding my soul away from its entanglement in error.

Jesus the Christ is the channel that draws me, lesson-by-lesson, to understanding the gift of eternal life.

Powerful Article on Elisha

The insightful article – Elisha’s Journey – How far Do You Want to Go? – is a trenchant and telling compliment to this week’s Bible Lesson on Elijah’s testing of Elisha’s commitment to “carry the baggage of stern resolve, and keep pace with highest purpose.” (*Science and Health*, 514).

Thank you so much! A very helpful article.

The biblical telling of the divine relationship between Elijah and Elisha is revealing. The relationship of Elijah, who reflects God, and of Elisha, who is seeking to reflect God, shows the level of divine commitment required to realize the gift of eternal life through Christ Understanding as set out in *Science and Health*. Positive to contemplate!

The relationship between Mary Baker Eddy, the light of Divine Science, and her students is a journey taken together. *Science and Health* has given me a new appreciation of the Bible and its fruitful expansion in the realm of Spiritual Truth, Divine Love, and Eternal Life.

Thank you for this article on Elisha’s journey. There were many good parts, but one that stood out to me was, “At each step of the journey Elijah was saying ‘stay here, don’t go any further’ and he was testing Elisha to see if Elisha would stay with him and how much Elisha wanted to follow him and to be with him. And Elisha passed the test saying (in so many words!) ‘Look, there’s no way, no way at all I am leaving you. I am staying with you and I don’t want to be anywhere else.’”

This reminded me of a statement given to me by my practitioner and also repeated in our classes, “For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.” (Isaiah. 50:7) and from our Daily Duties: “Alertness to Duty - It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.” *Church Manual*, Article VIII, Sect. 6.

A covenant with God suggested in our classes is a tremendous tool to have the stick to it attitude to keep the straight path. This was a beautiful lesson. Thank you!

Jesus Revives Lazarus's Corpse

Who does not feel their faith deepening while studying 'how, when, where, and why' Jesus responded to Mary and Martha's request to revive Lazarus's corpse? The thirty or so previous demonstrations (miracles) of Jesus make us ready for Lazarus.

Lazarus's resurrection reveals Immortality as the true vision of Life. Jesus demonstrated that Life was outside the physical and visible. And, Jesus showed by way of this demonstration that the real idea of body is perfect, never imperfect, and never subject to death.

Christ Jesus asks of us, via Lazarus, to overcome our belief in death and the grave, thus demonstrating Divine Life while on earth as he did.

Thankfully, Mary Baker Eddy, the light of Divine Science, took up Jesus's poignant request. She earned her Christly stripes by teaching and demonstrating how we, too, can earn those stripes.

This week's PCS lesson opens-out '*Science and Health*' as a text of Truth that challenges mortal mind's notions of life, truth and love. The lesson shows that all notions of physical death are 'a delusive deception without any actuality'. My awareness is stuck! Spiritual awareness of the truth about Life has to become real and tangible. Isn't that the purpose of Lazarus? As a profound lesson, Lazarus clings to me. I cannot shake it off. So this week's lesson: LIFE, is a catch-cry calling me to retreat into *Science and Health*. I am longing, more deeply, to comprehend the Christ precepts set out by Mary Baker Eddy. These words of Mrs. Eddy are my intoxicating guides while studying, contemplating and meditating upon those precepts. '...by knowing the unreality of disease, sin, and death, you demonstrate the allness of God.' 'Jesus taught us to WALK OVER, not into or with, the currents of matter, or mortal mind.' (*Unity of Good*, p. 9-10,11. Emphasis added).

The lesson of LIFE is full of wonder and challenges. Thank you, PCS, for publishing the lesson.

"Time-Tables of Birth and Death"

"Time-tables of birth and death are so many conspiracies against manhood and womanhood." (*S&H* 246:18-20)

"Time-table" – a chart, schedule or plan showing the arrival and departure of something, or when things should happen.

"Conspiracy" – a plot to falsely and maliciously indict or convict an innocent person.

Some human timetables are birthdays, astrology, and horoscopes; beliefs of life expectancy and heredity; seasonal beliefs, such as cold or flu season, hurricane season, hay fever season, Lenten season, etc. These "timetables" that appear so innocent on the surface would all maliciously and falsely plot against our divine right of innocence, freedom, and purity as God's idea. Thank God for Mary Baker Eddy for calling a "spade a spade" and waking us up to these conspiracies. *Believing* in a "timetable" is the conspiracy — God's good plan is the only chart of life.

Hymn 298

From The Christian Science Hymnal, 1932 edition

Saw ye my Saviour? Heard ye the glad sound?
Felt ye the power of the Word?
'Twas the Truth that made us free,
And was found by you and me
In the life and the love of our Lord.

Mourner, it calls you, — "Come to my bosom,
Love wipes your tears all away,
And will lift the shade of gloom,
And for you make radiant room
Midst the glories of one endless day."

Sinner, it calls you, — "Come to this fountain,
Cleanse the foul senses within;
'T is the Spirit that makes pure,
That exalts thee, and will cure
All thy sorrow and sickness and sin."

Strongest deliverer, friend of the friendless,
Life of all being divine:
Thou the Christ, and not the creed;
Thou the Truth in thought and deed;
Thou the water, the bread, and the wine.