

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE Two

SUBJECT: TRUTH 07/28/13

An evil eye

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed....an evil eye..." Mark 7:21. I can remember early on being shocked when a practitioner would talk about seeing "an evil eye" in someone. I thought that applied to "olden day" witchcraft - to some other era. My naiveté has since been corrected. If someone is entertaining evil thoughts – you can see it in their eyes, oftentimes when in repose. Evil cannot hide. It exposes itself to be destroyed and it is wise not to be naïve to this operation of error.

An "evil eye" is never person. It is some false belief being entertained by someone and this false belief needs to be cast out and destroyed in order to set the person free. In the lesson Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit - and it came out of him. Mrs. Eddy makes it very clear evil is neither person, place or thing. We cast error out by knowing the Allness of God, good - and the utter nothingness of His unlikeness! *****

Ok, I can see it in someone's eyes. Now what?

Do I condemn myself for seeing it?

Do I pat myself on the back for being so observant?

Do I get afraid and try to withdraw?

Do I pretend that I do not see it?

No, no, no, no!!!!

From the standpoint of perfect God, perfect man, and that since God did not make evil, it is neither person, place nor thing, but goes back on itself and destroys itself - you shut the door on it, don't take it in, and love the hell out of it. Right there is the presence of divine Love, a consuming fire to incinerate hate. Then move on, trusting God's disposal of events. *****

A relevant passage from **Addresses by Martha Wilcox** that really struck me when I first read it and came to mind when reading these posts: "In the case of the adulterous woman, Jesus performed the office of Christ by refusing to accept as true the false suggestion about the woman. By showing the false nature of the accuser, he silenced the condemnation and accusation of those who personalized sin. The he, as "I", being conscious of his own perfection, could not condemn her either. In other words, he first healed the accusing aspect of sin and then healed the victimizing aspect of sin."

I find it fascinating that Jesus didn't engage in the conversation head on, but rather healed those affected. Instead of attacking, he loved. To me this quote brings understanding of the idea of not being personal when dealing with sin and error. *

Certain in Truth!

"Have not I written thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make

thee know the certainty of the words of truth." Prov 22: 20-21. I love this - for how important it is to feel certain of this Truth we profess to follow. The word "certainty" is defined as "a fixed or real state, full assurance of mind; exemption from doubt or failure." Is this how I approach the Truth found in the **Bible** and in **Science and Health** - with full certainty? Or am I more apt to believe the lies of mortal mind? So much has been written - of excellent things in counsels and knowledge! And we have this Truth to prove to ourselves! How can we not be certain in Truth?! *****

This ties in with what I was struck by in the lesson this morning: "The spiritual sense of truth must be gained before Truth can be understood." Science and Health Notice truth and Truth - Truth being God, we cannot understand God without honesty, unselfishness, loving kindness, and meekness - which enables us to assimilate the spiritual sense of truth. Study is good but these qualities must be cultivated in practice - the only way to be certain in Truth. *****

Isaiah 26 : 2-4

"Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength;"

TRUST and TRUTH come from the same root word:

Old English treow, pledge: TRUCE. Old

English treowe, firm, true: TRUE. Old English treowth, faith, loyalty, truth: TROTH, TRUTH, BETROTH. Old Norse traust, confidence, firmness. *****

SUBJECT: LOVE 08/4/13

Love is the liberator

This is a very challenging and thought provoking statement in our lesson. I thought the Patriots saved us from tyranny and the North freed the slaves and the Americans won WWI and WWII! *****

Reading that "Love is the liberator" made me acknowledge that we cannot conquer hate and evil with more hate and evil. Jesus didn't carry a sword, but the Truth and assembled apostles not an army. He showed us it must be love and righteousness that guides us, because God's love gives us the ability to heal and to destroy error. Our intention must be Love which draws upon Truth, and it must guide us into healing action.

From "Fallibility of Human Concepts" in **Miscellaneous Writing** by Mary Baker Eddy: "Evil counterfeits good: it says, "I am Truth," though it is a lie; it says, "I am Love,"—but Love is spiritual, and sensual love is material, therefore it is hate instead of Love; for the five senses give to mortals pain, sickness, sin, and death,—pleasure that is false, life that leads unto death, joy that becomes unto sorrow."

We can't leave it to the patriots, because there are patriots on both sides of any conflict. Love of country will not destroy evil. Only recognizing Truth can do that. Being a patriot doesn't make you good, but

being spiritually discerning almost certainly will make us good patriots—providing America doesn't fall too far from the tenets that brought it into being.

At the end of "The Righteousness which is by Faith" there is this anonymous quote: "If hazards of false teachings and mistaken ideals multiply, the need of the church is not to rear higher its external defenses but solemnly to renew its reliance on the invincible and infallible spiritual leadership of the Master who dwells within it. When the presence of Jesus Christ in the church seems less potent for its protection than the measures of ecclesiastical authority, the mood cries to heaven for a livelier realization of Jesus Christ."

What caused the Revolution, the Civil War, and The World Wars grew out of evil intentions slowly multiplying over time. What can overcome these intentions—and liberate the affected—but God's Love?

Fear of death bondage?

"We see Jesus deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Hebrews 2: 9, 15
The world would have you believe that fear of death is a protection! And yet the **Bible** says fear and love cannot coexist. When you are fearing you are not loving. Your spiritual sense is shut down, and you are more susceptible to every form of evil!!!
The world is sooo wrong!
Jesus came to deliver us from fear of death - the **greatest act of love** there could be.
Think of it: "The relinquishment of all faith in death and also of the fear of its sting would raise the standard of health and morals far beyond its present elevation, and

would enable us to hold the banner of Christianity aloft with unflinching faith in God, in Life eternal." S&H 426: 23 *****

I woke yesterday thinking about all the ways I identify myself—as a "40 year old", as a "dad", as a "Palmer", just to name a few—and I realized how pervasive these snapshots of identity are. Then I read this post and I realized even how much more I need to learn to put behind me to move forward.

Then I read Peter V. Ross' "The Alibi Styled Age" from ***Leaves of Healing*** in which he wrote: "...while health and normality appear to be invaded on occasion, they never genuinely are. For men and women have an impervious integrity. They are clad in armor which relentlessly resists all intrusions of the various enemies that seem to infest human experience. "Hence the difficulty trying to raise itself against your peace of mind is at most fanciful."

This morning I read in ***Addresses by Martha Wilcox***: "The belief that the body is material is death itself. We can only get out of it by knowing we were never in it."
"Friends tried to bring Lazarus back to a sense of life in matter and failed. However, when the belief of life in matter yielded to Truth, it was made evident to the materialists around as raising the dead. "Wishing to restore life to matter resulted, with few notable exceptions, in failure. Instead, realize more constantly that life has nothing to do with death, or matter. Handle the belief of birth and death as applied to a person. One must not think that about himself. Every disease is a symptom of death. Therefore, disease overcome is a reduction of the belief of

death.

"Truth is its own demonstration by being Truth."

It gives me much comfort to feel that each small battle won against my own sense of identity brings me another step forward—away from fear and death—toward love and God. Today is not one day closer to death, but one day closer to life! *****

Loose him, and let him go

As I read this "Loose him, and let him go" today, I felt Jesus' indignation against the last enemy; the belief of death which has held "man" in bondage for so long. John 11:44 The command has the tone of the Christ power and Love which sees His own completeness and the freedom of all His ideas.

Is that Christ not here now commanding my freedom from all the wrong suggestions that come to my thought? Freedom from every evil thought and deed is our birthright, it's up to each one to express it in his/her experience. We are to feel liberated by His great Love! *****

Yes - I can hear the strength and certainty and dominion in his voice!

Someone recently defined "humility" as the state of mind which can always accept that one may be wrong. That may be a human definition, as per the scribes and Pharisees, but not for Christ Jesus! or any true Scientist!

Imagine declaring that God is good, but I may be wrong... True humility is that state that has so yielded to the divine will, that it recognizes its own nothingness (self apart from God) and speaks only as impelled by

Him. It stands on the rock Christ, and it is unmistakable.*****

The thought of rebuking sin and death used to have no real meaning to me; it seemed like an esoteric concept at best. The teachings I have encountered here have shown me how rebuking sin is the surest way to truly "love thy neighbor" when they are in need. Thinking otherwise is to believe that sin is ephemeral, that it has no lasting effect upon us. Knowing now that sin must be handled has given me more direction, more urgency, and more understanding on how to love.

As I read in Psalm 104:7-9: "At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth."

Our rebuke of sin will cause it to flee, and our steadfastness in Love and Truth will ensure it will not return. Accepting and embracing our place in God's Will, and devoting our activities toward that role, will give us the certainty that we are doing right.

I have struggled with understanding the difference between humility and pride, but I see now that when I strive to fulfill His Will for my life it is most definitely not that I could be wrong, but accepting that it will not be me that is right. Getting out of the way, and trying not to humanize or personalize what God wants me to accomplish is my best path to humility.*****