

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: SACRAMENT - 01/10/2016

Sacrament Thoughts

I was really blessed studying this lesson as it really showed me my closeness to God and the importance of gratitude in my life.

Mrs. Eddy says in Miscellany 131:5-7, "For this hour, for this period, for spiritual sacrament, sacrifice, and ascension, we unite in giving thanks."

The lesson opens with the idea that we should become childlike (Golden Text and points 1 and 2 of the responsive reading) in order to be open to receiving the "Sacrament". It says that we also need to desire it (Responsive Reading 2). It then reminds us that God is gracious (Responsive Reading 3) and that reminds me I should not be bound with guilt of past events. Like Children trusting their earthly parents, I shouldn't be worried about where the next meal is coming from or who is paying the bills. I know as a Christian these concerns belong to Father Mother, not me.

I loved the idea that we are stones in the wall building up a spiritual house (Responsive Reading 4 and 5) and that reminds me of my relationship with other church members and how unity is important, otherwise the house will collapse.

Responsive Reading 9 reminded me that we are a royal Priesthood and that ties in with Lesson Sermon 16 which tells us God has ordained us to reflect him and as such, to bless other people's thinking by kind acts and deeds, as well as living by example. That's a very different thing from a caste of people who claim to be "authorized" to give sacraments in denominations around the world.

The other parts of the Lesson Sermon give us examples of people who met the earthly Jesus and received the sacrament of the "Christ message" as he reminds them to look away from him (the personality) and to look to the Christ message behind his actions by loving our brothers (feet washing). Denial, sacrifice, purity of thought and so much more. *****

Thanks for these fresh inspiring insights. *****

Come Out From Among Them

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate," "is to incur society's frown."

On Christmas Eve, a co-worker invited me to her home for food and drinks. I thanked her and said I was going to the Christmas Eve service at my church. All my co-workers frowned upon me for going, but I "came out from among them" and was blessed being at this healing service filled with love, readings and music. *****

You chose the right food and drink, Christ's flesh and blood, the living bread, as per John 6:54. .****

The Cross

In Matthew 16:24 Jesus said, "If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me."

In Mark 10:21 he said, "and come take up the cross and follow me."

This mentioning of taking up the cross is done before he was crucified. I was wondering if the hearers understood what Christ was saying as we interpret "taking up the cross" today. *****

What do you think Jesus meant? What does it mean to you today? A lot of people go around wearing a cross on their necklace. What's that all about? ****

I wonder if taking up one's cross was a common saying in Jesus' days. Or, was it added after the crucifixion, as the gospels date from several decades later. But the intention of Christ's words is clear, "self-renunciation of all that constitutes a so-called material man," the yielding of mortal mind to the divine Mind, of this sense of false selfhood, to our real, eternal identity. Sometimes it seems more than I can handle! *****

What Is Required

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah) Whenever things seem to be overwhelming, it is helpful to go back to basics. Why push so hard? What really is required? – And here Micah gives a simple and doable list! If we take one step at a time, walking humbly with our Father, trusting Him with our cares, He will surely help us along the way. The Moffatt translation reads, "What does the Eternal ask from you but to be just and kind and live in quiet fellowship with your God?" *****

I think that's beautiful. It's so easy to get lost in material things. With this simple statement, we return to that childlike innocence of trust, which is required of us. *****

Society's Frown

To obey the Scriptural command, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," is to incur society's frown; but this frown, more than flatteries, enables one to be Christian. *Science and Health*, p. 238

Reading this reminded me of how long it took me to make some of the needed changes in order to grow spiritually; and the delays, plus the excuses were all because of the fear of society's frown. To think that not following what God wants is

disobeying God's command, brings home the censure of such disobedience. *****

Before I came to CS, I often said things like "I don't like that person or this person" and it was hard to remember that the person was fine, it was their quality of thinking or opinions I didn't like. I think by personifying evil, I gave it power and it also reduced the people down to an extremity of "good" or "bad", which enforced my belief in material living.

In the Lesson, p. 326. Mrs. Eddy talks about forsaking foundations and it reminds me that people aren't the problem, but my thinking about them isn't always healthy. So when I read this verse, I often think it isn't the people I have to leave but it is that group mesmerism which tries to dictate the strongest opinion. I think that's what causes the problem. *****

Love

This is a very beautiful lesson, brings one to tears. Jesus knew that his time had come and (John 13) "having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." When the Passover supper was over, he washed his disciples' feet. Then he charged them: "A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

And this is the way we must always work at Plainfield, so that we are indeed Jesus' disciples, working in unity.

Hymn 269: "Our God is Love, unchanging Love, And can we ask for more? Our prayer for Love's increase is vain; T'was infinite before. Ask not the Lord with breath of praise For more than we accept; The open fount is free to all, God's promises are kept." *****

I used to wonder what point Jesus was making when he told Peter that "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Peter had just told Jesus that he would not allow Jesus to wash his feet. ****

Here, Jesus was expressing great and humble love toward his disciples. He was washing them, cleansing them. We have spoken many times of the importance of feeling God's love for us as a requisite for our being able to love others. If I don't allow myself to feel God's love, I am shutting God out. Why? Because God IS Love. Love is the power that governs the universe. It is the power that heals. Without Love, life is empty.

Also, if I don't allow the Christ message to wash me clean, I am shutting God out. I need to allow the Christ to destroy incarnate error wherever it may be. This is the result of divine Love. That's why, as God's reflection, it is what we should be doing for one another.

It's wonderful how this gives purpose to life when you let the Christ get all the personal ambition out of the way. *****

They Immediately Left

Matt 4:20, 22

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

These verses point to the immediacy demonstrated by the disciples to follow Christ. How would I have responded, and how do I respond now to the same Christ calling today? When facing a challenge and the voice of Truth comes, do I leave the doubts, human opinions, materia medica beliefs, and stay comforted by the Truths of the Christ's message which comes to all in time of need? These lessons should help us to make CS more practical! *****

I was pondering this same thought morning, as well. What had to be the state of mind for men to "straightway" and "immediately" leave the only livelihoods they've known, their families and homes, to follow Jesus without a thought of self? I was asking myself, "Would I, could I, do it? Would I be worthy to be called and if not – why not? Fear would most likely be my deterrent, which is a clear indication that I've got a ways to go to not be so "of this world". Mary Baker Eddy was called and it was never an easy path, but she persisted. *****

Thank you for these posts. They helped me think more about what it means to follow. From the definitions of the word "follow", I realized we are always following something, even if we think we are sitting idly by. Hence, the importance of watching thought as we are continually reminded here at Plainfield. The words obey, imitate, and yield, in the definition, really surprised me. Thank you for the lesson this week.

Strong's Concordance

1811 eksakolouthēō ("follow") – properly, completely follow (literally, "wholly out from"), i.e. closely imitating (emulating) someone as a model or leader.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

follow: From ek and akoloutheo; to imitate, obey, yield to — follow.

SUBJECT – LIFE- 01/17/2016

Life With A Purpose

There is nothing more satisfying than to realize that we are here for a purpose. This purpose lies far beyond just having breath and a pulse and thinking that this alone is living. Recognizing that we have a God-given purpose helps to release the selfish inclinations and open the way to let the divine energies take over and move us. Who wouldn't want to feel the divine presence animating them? This is living. *****

Amen! I don't think I ever thought of "purpose" before coming to Plainfield and hearing testimonies about purpose.

I think I thought that Christian Science was all about making my life easier. Boy, was I wrong! Knowing my purpose now - to do God's will (obedience), to express Him, to bless others - keeps me busy and pressing on! No time to brood, ruminate, or drown in selfish pursuits. And life is so much better - it's glorious! *****

As the textbook explains, God needs us to express "Itself." The relation is like the sun and sunlight. *****

These ideas on purpose seem to fit in with a

gradually growing desire of mine to be a blessing, even a healing influence in the world. In thinking about right motives this morning, I was reminded of Mrs. Eddy's words in *Science and Health*, "Consecration to good does not lessen man's dependence on God, but heightens it." Helpful to remember when I start stumbling around a bit in my efforts. I, too, long thought Christian Science was about making my human experience better. *****

Cause

This morning it became very clear to me that the Cause of all existence is tender, pure, sweet divine Love, Love, Love, Love, and nothing else is real. All is Good, and Good is All. There is but one Cause, and it is Love.

This realization will melt away the supposed reality of evil, obnoxious people, discords, disease, terrorists, etc., because the opposite must be true. And we see that. All is this wonderful, infinite and omnipresent Love and it's infinite manifestation. *****

Very beautiful... I read this morning from Mrs. Eddy's article "Cause and Effect" – "It (Christian Science) shows the impossibility of transmitting human ills, or evil, from one individual to another; that all true thoughts revolve in God's orbits: they come from God and return to Him, – and untruths belong not to His creation, therefore these are null and void. It hath no peer, no competitor, for it dwelleth in Him, besides whom 'there is none other.'" I love to think of Christian Science as having no peer, no competitor and dwelling in God! *****

This is indeed beautiful, and helpful, thank you. And dwelling in God, Love, the only Cause, is truly heaven on earth! *****

Thank you for this wonderful post and all the replies. I am sitting with my little grandson thinking and praying with these truths. I read the other day that every truth expressed is the word of God. What a comfort! *****

By Him All Things Consist

"He was before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 1:17.

CONSIST: (1828 Webster Dictionary) "To stand together; to be in a fixed or permanent state, as a body composed of parts in union or connection. Hence, to be; to exist; to subsist; to be supported and maintained."

That's pretty wonderful! All of God's creation, everything and everyone, permanently united in one body - and all supported and maintained by God. So, in Truth, our nation, and the world, cannot be ripped apart by any beliefs of selfishness, hate, war, or division of any kind. "By Him all things consist"!

One Good Motive And Act

"...there is more life and immortality in one good motive and act, than in all the blood which ever flowed through mortal veins and simulated a corporeal sense of life." (*Science and Health*) What a wonderful way to think about Life! And how much better we all would be if we thought more about "what did I do today to bless someone and how pure are my motives" than "what is my blood pressure or how much weight have I gained?"!! This is what is so glorious about Christian Science. We can be "absent from the body and present with the Lord" by following His commands and by blessing His children. Everything in our "life" will be so much better for humble obedience to Him. *****

How important to be always checking our motives—for self or for God. It determines the outcome of everything we do, as wonderfully referred to in this lesson. "Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action." (*Science and Health*) "The purpose and motive to live aright can be gained now." (*Science and Health*) "Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way." (*Science and Health*) Ask God. Follow His commands. All are blessed. *****