

**SUBJECT:** Reality - 09/29/13

## **Keys to the Kingdom**

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Ps. 107:8

Our mental forecast is much like the weather forecast. When the skies are grey, the forecast is bleak. When there are storm clouds and turbulent skies, with certainty, the meteorologist predicts a storm on the horizon. Likewise, with us, when our mental atmosphere is blue and gloomy, the forecast is bleak. If nothing changes to uplift our thought or to break the mesmerism, with certainty, we can predict turbulence in our affairs. It is inevitable - when we are operating under the law we are subject to the law - the law of sin, disease, and death - for "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

When I was a girl, in order to save me from the storms that naturally occurred as a result of a turbulent mental atmosphere, my grandmother made up a game called: "Thy Kingdom Come". I didn't understand it then, but I do now. She said that every time I felt sad, betrayed, overwhelmed, depressed, fearful, or angry, I must open my heart by turning the keys to the Kingdom, which she said were love, joy, and gratitude. I was to love God first, then everyone I could think of, including my so called enemies. Then, I was to rejoice and be grateful that God is and that He is Good. Then I should praise God, thanking Him for everything I could think of, counting my blessings one by one, thanking him 70 times 70 for His goodness

and mercy. And finally, I was to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." She said that doing this every time I felt turbulence in my mental atmosphere would open the windows of heaven and let the Son shine in; and that all would be blessed: my so called enemies, my loved ones, my friends, and, of course, myself.

As a child, I didn't fully understand the meaning of my grandmother's game, but I understand today. During our Bible Study I was reminded that Mrs. Eddy instructed us to handle the weather daily. It reminded me of my grandmother's game. So, I asked myself are you handling your mental forecast (weather) daily, hourly, and without ceasing. If when the emotional clouds are grey, when the mental skies are turbulent, and the outlook is bleak, am I opening my heart by turning the keys to the Kingdom to let the Son shine in? Am I loving God and man for Love's sake? Am I rejoicing and praising God for being God - for being Good - for being All-in-all? And finally, am I counting my blessings one by one. If I am, then I am being obedient to God, to Truth, Life, and Love - I am handling my mental forecast daily, hourly, moment by moment...and whenever the sky darkens and the clouds threaten, I turn the keys to the Kingdom and my mental atmosphere is transformed, the storm retreats into the nothingness from whence it came, and all are blessed, rejoicing in the "Son" light of Truth. "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

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***SUBJECT: Christ Jesus 9/1/13***

### ***Radical reliance!***

“More than profession is requisite for Christian demonstration. Few understand or adhere to Jesus' divine precepts for living and healing. Why? Because his precepts require the disciple to cut off the right hand and pluck out the right eye, - that is, to set aside even the most cherished beliefs and practices, to leave all for Christ.” *Science and Health* pg 141: 3-9

To take that radical stand is uncomfortable, hence many concessions and excuses. Jesus used no material means nor gave any excuses. He radically followed the Christ demands. So isn't it true that Jesus was special, He did have powers we do not have, even though He said we can do what He has done? I just wonder at times.

If this reliance is in the future then do I really understand reflection? \*\*\*\*\*

*So isn't it true that Jesus was special, He did have powers we do not have, even though He said we can do what He has done?*

Thanks for posing this question. It gave me something to think about, because I've always been very unwilling to see Jesus more special or better than another person - simply because I thought it somehow took away from the message of "go, and do thou likewise". How could I possibly do likewise if Jesus was special?

Jesus never claimed any personal special-ness, did he? "He that believeth on me, believeth him that sent me; the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works; etc."

If he had claimed any powers of his own, he wouldn't have been able to do what he did.

His "windowpane" was spotless - but he was a windowpane, like you and me. Did he have less pride and personal sense to deal with, based on what we are told about his birth? Maybe. But, the mortal dream is

that some of us have more to deal with than others, adversity, etc. The reality is, the "stuff we deal with" is all nothing and no power - whether what appears to be is a lot of mortality or a little.

So, where I end up after thinking about your question is, how did Jesus get to the point where he was a spotless windowpane? We don't know much about the "bulk" of his human life, but I'm sure he had his own problems to work out. And he shared with us how - in the parables and Sermon on the Mount, etc. I'm encouraged, actually! \*\*\*\*\*

This is such an important point. It seems that so many "Christian" churches make Jesus out to be so special that his life becomes irrelevant to the rest of us. That is such a cop-out.

His birth was certainly special, but it only enabled him to more clearly demonstrate who and what is the Father of us all. To me, what was really "special" about Jesus was his faithfulness to God, his unswerving obedience to the Father. He didn't give a hoot about what anybody thought or said. He cared only about what God wanted of him. He was the best example of God's image and likeness that the world has ever seen. And that is a totally practical example for us all.

Radical yes, challenging? For sure! But, as Mrs. Eddy demonstrated, it is totally possible. The price, of course, is to "cut off the right hand and pluck out the right eye."  
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***SUBJECT: Matter 09/22/13***

### ***One real attraction!***

“There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind.” Years ago I was impressed by the fact that Mrs. Evans instructed us to work with this statement often – first for our own family and church, and then to reach out to include all mankind When you think about it there

does seem to be a pull toward other false attractions such as drugs, gambling, 'gaming', porn, and all the other so-called alluring indulgences of materiality. This outrageous lie of unreal attraction always leads to great despair and unhappiness for it is godless. Over and over this week's lesson brings out clearly the fact it is the Lord that "satisfies the desire of every living thing." How well it is to know this and to find all our desires fulfilled by Him. \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: Substance 09/15/13**

### ***Sodom: Appearance vs. Reality***

"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

Through the ages, the sin most commonly associated with Sodom has to do with some form of sexual mania. But the great poet, William Blake, sweeping away cobwebs of traditional theological and popular thought on this subject, uncovered an important, neglected, uncomfortable scripture shedding explicit light on Sodom's real, underlying problem, which at face value does not appear to be all that perverse, all that spectacular, and perhaps even trivial to modern readers: "Behold, this was the sin of thy sister, Sodom: pride, fullness of bread, abundance of idleness...neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." (Ezekiel 16:49)

God help me to counter this compound sin, the sin of Sodom, in my own life: let me embrace deeper depths of humility (obliterating pride); let me constantly hunger and thirst after righteousness in order to do away with being full of self, or full of yesterday's bread of Life - in other words, to empty myself of self (obliterating the self-satisfaction of "fullness of bread"); let me ever fulfill Mr. Carpenter's crucial "watching point" about being willing "to forget self and one's own desires, in order to help others . . . to be willing to be in service twenty-four hours a day with no vacation from God and His work" (thus to

obliterate "abundance of idleness" but also "to strengthen the hand of the poor and needy"). And let all the cities of earth, great and small, endeavor constantly to uncover and banish forever the sin of Sodom from within their walls. Amen. \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: Unreality 10/06/13**

### ***Beliefs = animal magnetism***

At the roundtable yesterday one of Mrs. Eddy's definitions of animal magnetism was given as "starting a belief and getting others to fear it, until evil is done to those that hold the belief, and a law is made, and the error goes on gaining ground, until the serpent becomes a dragon." (*Watches, Prayers and Arguments* p 176) Interestingly enough there are many places in this week's lesson on Unreality that warn us of the dangers of belief... "GODS. A belief that life, substance and intelligence are both mental and material...the belief that infinite Mind is in finite forms." "Finite belief can never do justice to Truth in any direction. Finite belief limits all things..." "Through this error, human belief comes to have 'gods many and lords many.'" I could go on but the point is made. I must ask myself what really are my beliefs? What am I holding on to that needs to be replaced with the understanding of God? Beliefs can be tricky and need to be recognized, challenged, and destroyed at every turn!!\*\*\*\*\*

In the article "Money" from *Addresses* by Martha Wilcox, she writes "money is a very high idea in the expression of Substance." Like so many concepts I am encountering here, I felt its importance before I understood what it meant. When I think about this, it becomes clear what beliefs I held about money prior to coming to Plainfield.

This in turn opens me up to the knowledge that all of God's ideas exist without our belief—which includes His idea

of every individual person—and they can only be perverted or obscured by us thinking anything less than the Truth.

I used to live in fear, because I somehow lost the understanding that I have God to rely upon. Thankfully we do have God to rely upon, and any belief that crops up in our thought that states otherwise is fallacious. I am so grateful that I don't need to feel alone with the problems of my life anymore. I can let that fear go and know that God's right plan is unfolding and the burden on me is not to come up with the solutions.

Thus I need to learn not to be a part of the problem; and with Christian Science and earnest work that will happen. I need to rid myself of false beliefs, put an end to any unloving thoughts and actions, and stop looking to my own understanding. I need to step away from the unreal, and walk toward God.

Some people think you have to give up everything you like about yourself to follow God's plan. Now I see, it is better to be "a very high idea in the expression of Substance" than an erroneous thought in matter. I see Him using the best of me in ways I could never accomplish on my own. What a wonderful life God has planned for all of us! No wonder in the lesson last week it said "your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you." He knows how good your life could be! \*\*\*\*\*

The belief is destroyed and replaced with the right understanding of God and His creation. Then it becomes a belief without a believer!!!

Understanding destroys belief. How can you continue to "believe" 2 plus 2 equals five - once you understand and can prove it equals 4?!\*\*\*\*\*

Not only do we have to self-examine what we believe in, but we need to be aware of what false beliefs we are tolerating or even supporting in those we

are close to, like family members. "Every system of human philosophy, doctrine, and medicine is more or less infected with the pantheistic belief that there is mind in matter; but this belief contradicts alike revelation and right reasoning." None of these false beliefs are benign. They are aggressive and they are opposed to Truth.

The only way to go is to reprove them - put them out. Otherwise they lead to confusion worse confounded. And who wants to live that way? You can't coexist with them. You can't sleep with them. Solomon tolerated and encouraged them and it ruined the entire nation.

"Mortals must find refuge in Truth in order to escape the error of these latter days." *Science and Health* pg 83:7-9\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Self apart from God:***

For a man who asked for and was granted wisdom, I find it curious that Solomon was steered off the right path. Did he simply not use the wisdom God gave him or did he presume that he now knows it all and no longer needs to turn to God? Isn't that what happens after we've been educated to the nines-the book learning that pushes God to the periphery. That's what happened to me until a medical scare yanked me back from that unreality.

A lot of similarity here to Asa from last week's lesson too. It's becoming clearer to me why the Master continually mentioned that of his own self he could do nothing and was insistent that men not call him good but attribute that to God alone. Much thanks to the lesson writer. \*\*\*\*\*

Maybe Solomon marveled at his exceptional wisdom like a super genius trusting in his own ability and in that moment assumed from that point forward all was wisdom - no humble self examination and testing the spirit. Error came rushing in and was never challenged. \*\*\*\*\*