

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: SACRAMENT** 7/08 /12

***I will have mercy, and not sacrifice.  
Matt 9:13***

Mercy implies that level of compassion that goes beyond what would ordinarily be called for, or considered appropriate according to law or custom. It is the "extra effort" that characterizes divine love. It is separating the error from the person, destroying the error, and loving the person. It means to never hold a grudge, never accept that someone is less than God's image and likeness, never to think myself better than anyone because of human position, accomplishment, or education.

Jesus set that example and was expecting it of his followers. It is what God requires of each of us. The Pharisees weren't there. They were content with their superficial, self-satisfied ritual of "sacrifice," a dead rite in the eyes of God (and Jesus). No compassion or feeling is required to burn a lamb.

***Create in me a clean heart***

I stopped at this one this morning - always thought I had a pretty clean heart, so usually skip over this. When I stopped here, I felt terrible resistance - very disturbing. So I pursued - very unpleasant for a while, grappling... then it came - I cannot get

entrenched in having mental positions - political, social, religious, and still at the same time be a clear transparency. This does not mean I should not stand with Principle! - but a constant turning to divine Mind to let Him direct my thought and conversation. Once this came, the unpleasant feelings dissolved.

This relying more, not less, on God was the overriding lesson at Pleasant View, and throughout Mrs. Eddy's experience in Christian Science.

***God requireth the past.***

*Ecclesiastes 3:15 reads: "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."*

It does not say, "God would like the past, if you please." Requireth!! Because He is Love. Past mistakes, past sorrows, past regrets - hand them over. How can we be about our business reflecting/expressing Him unless we give Him the past? What a freedom!

Is this statement demanding that I erase my so-called human / material history and rightly identify myself as God's spiritual idea? Is this requiring me to know that God is my past? That I am not a mortal comprised of human events and decisions, and instead see my life as unfoldment of spiritual good? Since God is the only cause, I must interpret the past through the lens of Love chastening. This Bible passage is

challenging the very basis of my thought!

Mrs. Evans told us this story when she was haunted by some ugly memories of the past - her practitioner told her to work with the following statement, "If it wasn't good it never happened in Divine Mind." Very radical, but if it wasn't good it is part of the Adam dream and this is what we must give up as unreal and untrue just as a bad dream is unreal and untrue. Mrs. Eddy says in "Unity of Good" - "To be healed, one must lose sight of a false claim." Only the good from God is real and this we can never lose and remains with us forever.

### ***Count them but dung!***

"Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee...and do count them but dung that I may win Christ." Evidently Paul had quite the credentials, came from "good stock" and all that kind of stuff- and yet he counted it- well, he thought very little of his human background compared to gaining the Christ! A great example of not being impressed with oneself - all that really matters is our relationship with God.

Just found some more dung. Nothing has set me up for a fall like thinking of the good I was doing and having a self-satisfied sense of it. What a contradiction! A God-less sense of good? Impossible! Yet it tries us all, it is trying of the devil, it is indeed dung.

***SUBJECT: LIFE 7/21/13***

**The Shunammite Woman Was A Natural Christian Scientist:**

In verse 21 when the boy seemed to die,

she first placed him as high as she could in mind, she put him on the Prophet's bed. Then she went out and shut the door. She told no one the boy had died but she 'closed the door' to mortal mind's claims.

Next she tells her husband when he asked her why she wanted to go to the Prophet that day, as it was not a holy day, "It shall be well!" Mortal mind would have had her tell him, the child is dead so I go to the Prophet! But instead she simply spoke the truth "It shall be well!"

Next when she arrived at the Prophet's location he had the servant ask her if it were well with her husband and with her child. How many would simply have begun to tell him "know the child is dead" but instead she spoke, "It is well".

What better treatment could she have given? Most tend to see this as a miracle of the man of God, but was it totally a miracle or was her treatment of the situation the catalyst for the restoring of life to her son?

Had she used another way of speaking, had she told the husband, "no the boy is dead I am going to the Prophet for a miracle" and had she told the servant, "no my boy is gone, I came for a miracle from the Prophet," would she have received her miracle? There are no miracles, they are only the working out of a higher spiritual law; I believe Mrs. Eddy stated in her words somewhere. See ***Ret. 26:12.***

The mother of the child was working with divine law whether intentionally or naturally, she truly was working with Truth and Science. She was a natural Christian Scientist.