

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: TRUTH
2/9/14

Blessed Are the Meek

Since being meek is one of the ways we “prepare ye the way of the Lord,” Isa 40:3, I looked up the definition today in the 1828 dictionary and found something I had not noticed before. Part of the definition reads: “appropriately humble ... not proud, self-sufficient or refractory.” It was the “not self-sufficient” part that caught my attention. Self-sufficiency on the surface sounds like a good thing, but at the core, there isn’t any God in it. It’s tied to personal sense, thinking that all I am, all I’ve accomplished, came from me, hence, the need to be meek. Now that passage in II Corinthians 3:5 makes even more sense because I see its connection to the Beatitude: “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.” Really rich lesson yet again this week! *****

Paths, Ways, Roads and Highways...

There is a theme here of preparing the way of the Lord that permeates the lesson. I was wondering, what is it to “prepare the way of the Lord”, to “make his paths straight”? What does it mean to “make straight in the desert a highway for our God”?

In Peloubet’s Bible Dictionary, under Highways: “Though during the way of the Romans over Palestine they made a few substantial roads.... for most of the time the

Jews had nothing such as we call roads, but only footpaths through which animals walked in single file. These were never cared for, no repairs made or obstacles removed. This fact brings into striking prominence the figure of preparing a highway for the return of the captives, or the coming of the great King. ...”

Mrs. Eddy writes, “Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea, – the reflection of God, – has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth.” *Science and Health* p333: 19-23

How does one prepare the way of the Lord, to receive the Christ, Truth? *****

God Prepares the Soil

“A germ of infinite Truth, though least in the kingdom of heaven, is the higher hope of earth, but it will be rejected and reviled until God prepares the soil for the seed. That which when sown bears immortal fruit, enriches mankind only when it is understood.” What a statement! You can’t force the Truth on anyone. Most likely we have all tried at some point and found it to be a dismal failure. “God prepares the soil for the seed” and He alone can do this. *Science and Health* p. 361: 25-30**

Strait

Matthew 7: 13 “Enter ye in at the **strait** gate. Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Strait (adjective): from stenos (original Greek), meaning narrow (from obstacles standing close

about).

In less than a day after spinning is complete, the cocoon of the Emperor moth cements into a concrete-like, weatherproof, waterproof shell, rough outside and smooth within, airtight except for air holes alongside. This cocoon is designed like a lobster pot, with a peculiar, to all appearances, undersized "door" allowing the mature moth to exit. At the opening of this exit, there are very specialized bristles, aligned in such a way as to prevent other creatures from entering. Depending on weather conditions, a developing moth can remain in its cocoon-fortress from anywhere between one and five years, possibly even longer.

In a noteworthy experiment, a research scientist tried to "help" an adult moth emerge from its cocoon by sparing the creature the effort of squeezing its large body through the impossibly tiny, strait-and-narrow opening on its own: increasing the diameter of its exit hole by carefully, surgically snipping off a bit of the tip of the cocoon. The moth then made an easy exit from its outgrown confines, but . . . the moth was deformed, its body much bigger than its wings, which were tiny and undeveloped! Unable to move, the creature soon died.

As it turns out, the adult Emperor moth has to struggle inside its cocoon using sharp hooks at the base of its wings. It has to experience the stress of passing through the narrow exit in order for its body to streamline and for its wings to be filled to full expansion with the body fluids that automatically flow into them during the streamlining process. *****

I love the responsive reading for that very reason. The Sermon on the Mount makes it very clear what state of thought is required in order to receive the Truth.

Blessed are the meek... No pride. Let it be

burned out.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness... You have to want the truth more than anything. It must be the "pearl of great price" to you or you won't recognize it, let alone be receptive to it.

Blessed are the pure in heart... You must be willing to "rid one's self of error." What is my motive for wanting the truth?

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake... You have to be willing to stand on the truth no matter what anybody says or does. The truth is not diplomatic. It does not compromise with human opinion. It is a law of destruction to everything that is not true. This is what healing is all about.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad... Be darned grateful to God for every good thing, and don't forget it. *****

Only those that let God prepare them can accept Truth. "The world" exhorts us to take charge of our life, "make it happen," set goals and go for them. Christ Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. You cannot force it. "Now I am going to be meek!" No, but as "The New Birth" by Mrs. Eddy explains it:

"The new birth is not the work of a moment. It begins with moments, and goes on with years; moments of surrender to God, of childlike trust and joyful adoption of good; moments of self-abnegation, self-consecration, heaven-born hope, and spiritual love." *****

This conversation reminded me of Hymn #123 – "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace all sufficient, shall be thy supply; The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume and Thy gold to refine." As we walk this straight and narrow pathway God does mold, and shape and design us in the most glorious way. It is ours to stay the course and not deviate when the going gets fiery and rough; in this way we humbly submit to our Father, seeing His way as the ONLY way and

in so doing a wonderful transformation begins to take place. *****

The Spirit of The Lord Bloweth Upon It ..

"the grass [flesh] withereth, the flower [goodliness thereof] fadeth: because the spirit of The Lord bloweth upon it " Isa. 40:7

I find this statement comforting. Is that weird? It's a simple fact. The spirit of The Lord is, and is blowing, and the flesh will just be gone. The question is, am I of the flesh or of God? Am I keeping faith with error or Truth?

We're not out to heal the flesh or save the goodliness of the flesh. We're not out to destroy it, either, are we? That's not "our" job.

Maybe the strait gate (like the "eye of the needle") only allows you and one thing through, the desire to know God for the love of God and man. You cannot bring anything else in with you. We talk about the narrow way, but I think it's the gate that is "the gate keeper."

The narrow way is more of a warning, perhaps: there is no shoulder, no turn offs, no rest areas. "On the path that hath no turning". Is it possible to leave the narrow way, if you've come through the gate? I wonder. *****

Interesting view - next to the "Strait" thread - on the one hand, it requires striving (the moth and the chick) to enter in the gate, but to your point, you cannot force it, or better, fake it, or will your way through. The material, the human cannot enter, no matter how hard you strive to force it. The spirit of the Lord will blow upon it, and it will disappear, but not on our terms. Our job is to strive to enter in and leave the rest to Him. Is not Christ Jesus the Wayshower? *****

SUBJECT: LOVE - 02/02/14

Universal Love

"Universal Love is the divine way in Christian Science." *Science and Health* p 266:18-19
What a wonderful lesson! It presents Love free of limitation - Christian Science provides tools, but there is no sense that it identifies people - "no respecter of persons" - a healthy challenge, as we all tend to see person and so limit our love! *****

What should come before gaining this sense of Universal Love is quoted here and is the biggest challenge: "When we realize that there is one Mind, the divine law of loving our neighbor as ourselves is unfolded;" *Science and Health* p. 205: 22-31

The "heat" is on. I must do better. I must daily strive to see what is true about all "men." Not easy, but it must be done if I Love as God Loves me. Recognizing this one Mind is Loving! ****

Thoroughly Understood

"It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love. Mankind will become perfect in proportion as this fact becomes apparent, war will cease and the true brotherhood of man will be established." This statement meant so much to me this morning as I had to ask myself – how thoroughly DO I understand that “all men have one Mind...etc.” And does this understanding (or lack of it) reflect in my actions? I thought I understood - but the results of thoroughly understanding this Truth in Science are so monumental!! Obviously, I have a lot more work to do. Time to rake over thought! *****



Rahab Lied!

Rahab deceived the king of Jericho! Why are we celebrating her in this lesson?

The end of the Bible portion of the lesson: "that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ." Phil. 1:10. Was Rahab sincere and without offense? And further, she was a prostitute. I'm shocked!! *****

I'm sure Rahab wasn't conscious of "being loving." And, from what the story says, she could see that the God of Israel was God and that she better not stand in the way of it (and, possibly wanted to know more about this God). And, she wanted to save her family. She certainly asked for their safety in return for her kindness (is that "love", in the sense she's asking for something in return?) Would she have hidden any people the authorities were after, or just these messengers? She certainly took a big, self-sacrificing risk - much like people through history who have hidden innocent people from oppressors.

Maybe the story is more about universal Love than Rahab's "love" alone? The messengers loved God, Rahab loved her family and must have had some sense that the messengers were of God (and therefore, deserved love). The messengers and Joshua kept the promise to Rahab and God, Love, was working the whole time.

As for lying - well, the law of love is higher than any technical "moral" law (provided it is really love operating and not an excuse.) And prostitute? Probably more ready to hear God because not steeped in self-importance. Isn't it strange how there has always been horror at the idea of selling one's body to make ends meet, and not so much at selling one's soul to obtain evidently grosser forms of materialism???

Let God, the only one GOOD, judge who is a liar, who is a sinner and perhaps what is a lie. If a right action, (protecting someone from evil) gets the better of that intended evil, mortals may call it a lie but perhaps that is not how God sees it.

Didn't Pharaoh's daughter "lie" to protect Moses? Furthermore, let's halt before judging Rahab because she was a prostitute. Is it not the Magdelene's contrite heart that Jesus said would be remembered whenever this gospel is preached?

How do we know whether Rahab was not a prostitute who was yearning to do better, crying out to and for God, trying to change her ways but couldn't see herself right at the moment. Sure, God would use one like that rather than a self-righteous "Church Scientist" who goes around self-satisfied, looking down on others not like her or not of the same "faith."

So, who is more pleasing to God? Who "Loves" most - a pretentious Scientist or one like Rahab? All-knowing God sees the heart; no one is fooling Him. Worth thinking about! *****

No Respector of Persons

Those of us awake have a solemn responsibility - not to be consumed with helping feed the poor - as Jesus said in rebuking Judas for complaining that Mary was wasting expensive ointment on the Master that would be better spent on the poor: "For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always." Christian Science has virtually disappeared off the face the earth - is it not more important "TO WORK, WATCH AND PRAY" - to concentrate our efforts in spiritualizing thought, and seeing real, vital Christian Science reach mankind?*****

