

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 40

SUBJECT- MATTER -03/22/15

Not Meat and Drink

“The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” This lesson certainly debunks human laws including those of “meat and drink.” It would seem the more a person obsesses about food the worse the situation becomes whether the claim calls itself indigestion, overweight, lack of appetite etc. The Sermon on the Mount comes into play here reminding us not to take thought “for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink...” And Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health, “We must not attribute more and more intelligence to matter but less and less, if we would be wise and healthy. The divine Mind which forms the bud and blossom will care for the human body, even as it clothes the lily; but let no mortal interfere with God’s government by thrusting in the laws of erring human concepts.” God is the only power and all He gives to His creation can only be a blessing. *****

When Mrs. Evans needed to lose weight she worked with the following thoughts:
Before eating she would ask herself “is this hunger or appetite?” and only ate when she was hungry. She also knew “God proportions me.” And finally from Mrs. Eddy’s hymn – “Fed by Thy love divine we live, for Love alone is Life.” She went from a size 16 to a size 8 without dieting. In Laura Sargent’s class notes she states, “The denial that body is physical and material is more important than the denial of disease itself. A Christian Scientist does not diet. If he does, he puts himself in the realm of material medica.” *****

Harden Not Your Heart

Many Bible study tools refer to the heart as: the mind, character, will, intention, and desire - to

name some meanings.

Many bible interpretations mention the hardness of Israel's unrepentant heart serves as a warning and a challenge for us not to react in the same way.

I read that a hard heart is an obstinate and calloused heart that fails to respond to God or obey him. Recently we discussed, during a Roundtable, about the "bland denial of Truth" which I think could lead to this state if not caught and addressed.

Jesus rebuked the disciples for the hardness of their hearts, addressing their inability at the time to see, hear, understand, and remember what they had experienced and witnessed. They struggled with this with Jesus in their midst.

I find myself drifting in this direction when I allow myself to be mesmerized by upsetting events, get too comfortable, become less alert to the needs around me, forget to examine my heart and motives, attach bad or good to person, judge, compare, and worry what others think about me.

I am finding here at Plainfield the activities, materials, practitioner support, fellowship, and opportunities provide a antidote to this condition of thought; if sincerely practiced and lived daily.****

Thank you so much for this post!

In my youth, I felt I needed to protect myself, and I thought the only way to do that was to harden my heart. It went so far that I was jaded to everything, and almost couldn't feel compassion or see beauty in this world. But there is no protection in anger, hatred, impatience, or indifference. All those qualities did was push me further from God, and therefore any chance to have a meaningful life. Without a desire to work for God, and to help others, I truly had nothing.

I am so grateful that God gave me the lessons and

time needed to find my way thus far out of that dark place. That is part of the reason I feel it is such a blessing to be a member of this church: We have the opportunity to learn and work for God, and therefore the world. Often, this work is the only clear way I know how to “love more,” so I am grateful for every little bit of it. *****

I had hardened my heart from a divorce at a young age. I built a wall mentally and didn't want anyone to enter. I felt this would keep me from being hurt emotionally again. I called a practitioner and was given the statement to work with, “I am loving, lovable and lovely.” Through the prayerful help of the practitioner and reminding myself that these qualities of God were also in me, broke down the wall and opened my heart to express love. I am grateful to have learned this lesson. I still use this statement daily. *****

One of my most favorite hymns is #278. It is hard for me to read it or to sing it without welling up in tears. When going through a period in which all the walls were up and my heart had become hardened, this hymn helped to break through the mesmerism of a stony heart and to find a heart softened by God's grace. All the verses of this hymn are beautiful, as is this one, the last – “Healed is thy hardness, His love hath dissolved it, Full is the promise, the blessing how kind; ... So shall His tenderness teach thee compassion, So...all the merciful, mercy shall find.” *****

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Amen... sometimes I'll ask God to soften my heart, and to teach me to love more...I know I can always be more loving! I never would have thought to do so before coming to Plainfield. I've learned a lot about how to pray more effectively and make Christian Science practical. It's by keeping God at

the center of everything! Work for God first and everything else is taken care of. *****

Illusion Versus Truth

Science and Health: "Be no more willing to suffer the illusion that you are sick or that some disease is developing in the system, than you are to yield to a sinful temptation on the ground that sin has its necessities."

Having had the Scientific Statement of Being specifically pointed out on this forum, ("There is no life, truth, intelligence, or substance in matter. All is infinite mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is all in all. Spirit is immortal truth, matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal, matter is the unreal and temporal. Therefore, man is not material, he is spiritual.") It has become much more helpful to me than before, when tempted by material illusion of sickness or disharmony, in recognizing perfection in God's child. Continuing gratitude for all Plainfield is offering us! *****

Since coming to Plainfield, I have really become aware of the word “illusion” as used by Mary Baker Eddy and how the illusion would try to tempt us into believing something that is not real. And then to "cling steadfastly to God and His idea." ***** ..

Be A Law Unto Yourself

Rom. 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

The latter part of this verse sounds like "being a law unto one's self" to me. It shows Paul's sensitivity to the condemning attitude of those who may have felt themselves knowledgeable of the law and therefore superior spiritually.

We cannot judge or condemn, each is a law unto themselves. If sincerely working to love and serve God, God will reveal what one needs to know. It is the motive of the heart that God looks at. He warns us not to judge others; it is our love and encouragement which will not put a stone on a brother or sister's heart. *****

Rereward

In Isaiah this week, in 58:8, it says, "...and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward." From what I have found out after researching this word is that the Lord has your back and is guarding you. The rereward was actually the rear guard of an army that served to protect the people in front of them. "During the wilderness march, the tribe of Dan formed the rear-guard". This is a wonderful concept for me and I have thought about it as I have gone about my life this week. Righteousness goes before me and all, and that God is guarding and guiding us from behind! *****

SUBJECT - REALITY – 03/29/15

Purity and Freedom

In the 1828 Webster's dictionary, the definitions of purity include:

1. Freedom from foreign admixture or heterogeneous matter; as the purity of water, of wine, of spirit;
2. Cleanness; freedom from foulness or dirt; as the purity of a garment.
The purity of a linen vesture.
3. Freedom from guilt or the defilement of sin; innocence; as purity of heart or life.
4. Chastity; freedom from contamination by illicit sexual connection.
5. Freedom from any sinister or improper views; as the purity of motives or designs.

It was never stressed while growing up in Science the importance of purity, which this lesson brings out.

And purity is equated with freedom! Ahhh... I had to find out the hard way. Mrs. Eddy writes, "Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense and self. The old man with his deeds must be put off. Nothing sensual or sinful is immortal."

I think I had a very skewed view of REALITY until I came to this church. (I went down the suffering road instead of the Science road, despite hanging on to Science for dear life!) Only coming to Plainfield got me straightened out, and purity had everything to do with that. The old man with his deeds was put off—boy, am I glad about that! The correct teachings in this church set me free to learn about reality!

Self-Immolation

14. 99 : 23-29

The calm, strong currents of true spirituality, the manifestations of which are health, purity, and self-immolation, must deepen human experience, until the beliefs of material existence are seen to be a bald imposition, and sin, disease, and death give everlasting place to the scientific demonstration of divine Spirit and to God's spiritual, perfect man.

IMMOLATION, noun The act of sacrificing. —from the 1828 Webster's Dictionary

I only knew this word in its more modern context of being set on fire. But now—seeing that “self-immolation” means “the act of sacrificing self”—it makes so much more sense! What I identified as “myself” before coming here was also something I intensely hated. That identity brought me a life of pain, without purpose, and feeling irreconcilably separated from God. Once I stopped clinging to that self, God sent me here to a life of joy and purpose. Being forced to sacrifice that self was the hardest experience I ever went through and the best thing that ever happened to me.

Sacrificing self is one of the main criteria that people point to when saying something is a cult. They'll say, “I would never do that” and then go home and watch 5 hours of television escaping from the life they've built, so they can live as someone else for a while, only to feel depressed the next morning. That is what I did for decades. What a waste!

But now it is clear that when sacrificing self, it must

not just be to another's idea of self, but to God, and Him alone! How much better is it to sacrifice that self and truly make a difference? God is Mind—He has already determined your purpose. God is Love—He is offering you support and guidance constantly. God is Truth—what He gives will never be shown as false, so there will be no regret. Self only wants to keep, but God sent us to give! Where else could I have learned this but here? Without Christian Science, life made no sense at all to me.

I am so grateful to God for sending me here, so I can learn and begin to understand these lessons. I am also grateful that He has given me purpose, and made me useful to His mission. Thank you.

Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-immolation, are God's gracious means for accomplishing whatever has been successfully done for the Christianization and health of mankind. from *Science and Health*, p. 1

To See Clearly..

Matt 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

A beam ..a large piece of timber... a mote... a small particle ...this illustration makes clear that the believer of malpractice has more to get rid of than the one who may be accused of malpracticing.

Since false beliefs originate from the carnal mind, it is this mind that is enmity to God and opposes God's supremacy. Hence better to get working to clear one's own thought first. It is great counsel that warrants attention from all. *****

The beam in my eye is the impure obstacle to clear vision. It is the false beliefs that I cling to; the pride in those things of the world that I think give me pleasure; the fear of those things I don't trust to God which I believe could hurt me. It is holding a grudge against someone for something that should have been forgiven. These are the impure obstacles that need to be cleaned out before I can see God at work in my life.

These things creep in every day (or try). The cleansing process is ongoing. I'm sure that is why Paul implored the Hebrews to "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." Watching out for one another and encouraging one another in the right direction is a big help in the cleansing process. *****

Mrs. Eddy told her students "We awaken in others the attitude we hold of them." (*Collectanea*, p. 99) This illustrates the importance of casting out the beam in one's eye. If we hold in our consciousness unloving, distrustful, critical thoughts of our neighbor, we will begin to see the results of this erroneous thinking (beam) everywhere! You think your child is selfish and lazy? Most likely he will continue to live up to your expectations! Change thought – cast the beam out! Is he God's child or not?! Know selfishness is not of God and therefore it is not a part of His creation. The dominion comes from within. On the other hand, remember this from *Science and Health*, "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man, the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick." Yes, you will awaken in others the attitude you hold of them! "Open mine eyes that I may see..." *****

"If we hold in our consciousness unloving, distrustful, critical thoughts of our neighbor we will begin to see the results of this erroneous thinking (beam) everywhere!"

The commandment to love thy neighbor couldn't be more imperative! Through CS, I understood its importance, but I see it now, more than ever, that if I think I am seeing wrong in others, it means that wrong can be possible in myself; since in Truth we ARE our neighbor. Jesus lived the best example; He never tolerated anything unGodlike as part of His neighbor because it was first impossible in Himself (as God's own child) thus as stated above could heal everywhere! *****

I recall reading this by Mrs. Eddy: The man I see is the man I am. Unseeing the unreal counterfeit, and seeing the true individuality: God in action, expressing Himself.