

July 04, 2005 – Subject: Sacrament

DEAR FRIENDS: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from – TALKS GIVEN BY JOHN W. DOORLY AT HIS OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL 1948.

MATTHEW Chapters 25:1-28:20

I prophesy that when men see that the Bible is the "pure river of water of life," that it is the scientific story of being, then nothing will keep them from it. Today it's all you can do to get many people to read the Bible, but when they realize that its story brings them health, happiness, holiness, identity, and individuality in a measure that nothing else does, then they will read their Bibles, and they will love to do so. There will then follow a great influx of spiritual understanding, which will do mighty things. But until men understand the tools, the key to the Bible given in the first chapter of Genesis, they can't go on and understand the whole story. You can't understand music or mathematics until you know their fundamentals, and it's just the same with Science. When men understand the symbolic "seed-plot" of the first chapter of Genesis, they will appreciate the fact that the whole of the Bible is a development of that "seed-plot" and must be read as such. Jesus was continually using symbols, and remember that Mrs. Eddy says, "Spiritual teaching must always be by symbols" (S. & H. 575:13-14).

TRUTH AS LOVE (Chapter 25). *Perfect womanhood will conceive of the compound idea man in every detail, and will tend and protect it. Mrs. Eddy says of divine Science, "Woman must give it birth" (Ret. 26:23). We epitomized Truth as Love in the days of creation, you remember, as perfection and perfect womanhood.*

VERSES 1-13. Now we come to the wonderful parable of the ten virgins. The ten virgins symbolize the Ten Commandments. The five *foolish* virgins symbolize thought which regards the Commandments from a religionist's point of view as a collection of "Thou shalt not's." That humanly moral view has been of great benefit to mankind, and yet in many ways it has also played hell with mankind. The false view of the

Commandments perverted Jewish religion from monotheism into a belief of a cruel God, a damned man, and a priest as intermediary between that God and that sinning man. The five *wise virgins* represent thought which regards the Commandments scientifically, as a symbol in exact detail of the Word and the Christ; they symbolize that which regards the Commandments not from the "five" of the five physical senses, but from the "five" of the fifth day of creation – exaltation and inspiration.

The lamps symbolize the days of creation; they are used in that way in the Book of Revelation. The wise virgin had oil in their lamps – they had an inspired and consecrated sense of those days of creation. The foolish virgins had no oil in their lamps they were like those who are content to learn the days of creation parrot-fashion and then say, "I know them now, and that's that!" If we are to be like the wise virgins, then we shall take the days of creation and live them and love them and let them become to us the most living things in all the world; their inspiration will never grow dim, and we shall see them as Immanuel, "God with us," as the very presence and power of God. We shall have the wisdom of Mind, the virgin thought of Spirit, and the consecration, the sanctity, of Soul in our lamps, and that will lead us to an understanding of divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. Remember that we are considering Truth as Love; so often, when the tone of Love is introduced, there is the sense of how Mind leads inevitably to Love through wisdom, purity, and' consecration,' we shall be led to recognize man as the idea of Principle, and so we shall be ready at the midnight hour, – the critical point at which the old is passing away and the new light of spiritual understanding is about to break, – and we shall go in to meet the bridegroom, the Christ-idea; Mrs. Eddy defines "Bridegroom" as "Spiritual understanding; the pure consciousness that God, the divine Principle, creates man as His own spiritual idea, and that God is the only creative power" (S. & H. 582:17-20).

Remember that the Ten Commandments, considered objectively, represent some sense of the seven days of creation operating to analyze, uncover, and annihilate error, at the point of the fifth day. That objective sense of the Commandments is what the Hebrews had; like the foolish virgins, they had some sense of the days of creation, but when it came to accepting the Christ-idea, they found themselves without oil in their lamps, – they lacked spiritual sense. The five wise virgins regarded the seven days of creation from the aspect

of Science, and therefore they saw them subjectively, on a wholly spiritual basis, as emanations of the divine; they saw not only the Word, but also the Christ. So they had spiritual sense and consecration in their lamps.

The seven days of creation, viewed from Mind are a line of light: viewed from Spirit, they are an order; viewed from Soul, they are each identified; viewed from Principle, they are one infinite system; at the point of Life, the time element goes out of the picture, and the seven days are viewed from eternity as “numerals of consciousness” “numerals of infinity “ (S. & H. 520:10), operating as a calculus of the Word reflecting the Word, the Christ, Christianity, and Science; in Truth, the seven days become one sevenfold tone represented by the synonymous terms for God operating in a calculus of the Word, the Christ, Christianity, and Science, each in its own aspect; finally, in Love, the synonymous terms and the fourfold calculus are seen to be forever included in the one divine Love.

It is at the point of Life that thought ceases to regard the days of creation as seven successive stages of thought, looked at from Mind, Spirit, Soul, or Principle. When Jesus came in the fifth thousand years of Bible history, he said, “ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

When the foolish virgins found that their lamps had gone out, they tried to borrow oil from the wise virgins, but the fact of the matter is that each one of us has to culture our understanding of God individually; nobody can do it for us. The heaven of Science is that each one of us is God’s individual reflection and must reflect God individually. Love requires perfection; Love isn’t satisfied with anything less than perfection. When we touch the tone of Truth as Love, when we find the Christ in Love, we shall see that perfection demonstrated in pure, spiritual consciousness.

If you are merely trifling with science, and there are still two factors for you – good and evil – and you think of Science as something in which good has to war with evil in order to overcome it, then you are still a religionist at heart, and you haven’t really reached Science itself. But when you come to the point where you see that from everlasting to everlasting there is only one substance, the substance of Spirit, of good, and you begin to understand Life in and of Spirit, then the bridegroom comes to you. You see that God’s ideal or Christ makes

itself manifest through that order of Spirit as the divine infinite calculus, and then that leads you to see that Christ, or Truth, is forever fulfilled in Love, forever glorified and made holy, that Truth is God's ideal forever embosomed in Love.

VERSES 14-30. The parable of the talents is rather similar to the parable of the ten virgins. The five talents symbolize a sense of the Word; the two talents symbolize understanding; the one talent symbolizes a sense of "Let there be light." The servant who was given the five talents, – a sense of the Word, – "went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents, "he had some sense of the calculus of the Word at the point of Life, and so his thought was exalted and could multiply until he had a subjective as well as an objective sense of Life. The servant who was given two talents, – the pure understanding of Spirit – "gained other two," brought forth the fruit of Spirit. But the servant who had been given one talent, – a sense of Mind, – "went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money," – buried it in human organization. "If you are satisfied to know that God is Mind, and to know something of the Science of Mind-healing, and to go no further, then you are "hiding your one talent and making no headway at all. You are just a religionist struggling with something, which you call the divine Mind in order to overcome a great reality called mortal mind, and your life is a prey to fear. Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." There is no stopping-place in Science; you must go on. You can kick against the pricks if you like, but eventually you will be forced to progress. Once you have begun to understand the days of creation, they will expand in your thought into numerals of consciousness, and then into the synonymous terms for God – Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. As you put on the Mind of Christ, you will see how the infinite ideas, which characterize these terms, reflect each other infinitely as the Word, the Christ, Christianity and Science. Like the wise virgins, remember, you will need oil in your lamps, – you will need to consecrate thought to the days of creation.

When the master returned to reckon with his servants, he rewarded the first two servants with the joy of Soul-sense. The talent of the wicked servant was taken away from him, – he lost the power of demonstration, – and given, not to the servant who had doubled his two talents, but to the one who had doubled his five talents, – who had touched the essential nature of Life by gaining an objective and a subjective sense

of it and so experienced that multiplication which the fatherhood of God always brings. When men thought of God as a person, they could say to themselves, when they were doing something they knew to be wrong, "Well, maybe I can get away with this, maybe I won't be seen." But you can no more fool Principle than you can fool the principle of mathematics by saying that $5 \times 5 = 27$ and expecting to get the right answer. The belief in a personal God leads to belief in the remission of sins without real repentance or reform. The only way that anybody can give you remission of sins is if they know enough of Principle to demonstrate the Mind of Christ, which heals sin. Mrs. Eddy says, "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals" (S. & H. 476:32-2).

And so when you begin to understand that God is divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, you see that unless you calculate rightly you will have no Life, Truth, or Love, – no eternity, no manhood, no glory. You see that you must calculate according to the values of Life, Truth, and Love, or you will get the wrong answer. So it is a wonderful thing when you begin to see that God is Principle because Principle is ever operative.

VERSE 31. Considered from the aspect of Life Christ is the Son of man; Mrs. Eddy says, "Life is Christ, and Christ, as aforesaid, heals the sick, saves sinners, and destroys the last enemy, death" (My. 185:19-21). From the aspect of Truth, Christ annihilates the belief of error, and from the aspect of Love, Christ shows that there is not and never has been any error; it is Christ from the aspect of Truth and Love, Truth forever embosomed in divine Love, that is indicated in "the words, "then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

VERSES 32, 33. The "sheep" and the "goats." symbolize spiritual thinking and material thinking.

VERSE 34. He who cultivates the Mind of Christ, – who cultivates exact, scientific, spiritual understanding, – will inherit his true selfhood. He will inherit a sense of Truth as Love, – a sense of the fulfillment of manhood, the fulfillment of the compound idea man, the fulfillment of the Christ-idea. He will find his life "hid with Christ in God." The Psalmist says, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

VERSES 35-46. The "righteous" are those who have the right consciousness of the Christ-idea. What Jesus was demanding here was that we give a sense of the Christ-idea as Science to those who

are hungering and thirsting for it. Mrs. Eddy says, "Millions of unprejudiced minds simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert-are waiting and watching for rest and drink. Give them a cup of cold water in Christ's name, and never fear the consequences" (S. & H. 570:14-18). Are we gaining the Christ-idea so that we can give it to the millions "athirst" in the desert? The world we live in is steeped in the grossest materialism. Men are quite ignorant of the operation of the Christ-idea. They do not know where to turn for help. They ask, "Is there a God? If so, what is He doing about the mess the world is in?" To the majority of young people, Christ means practically nothing. What men will have to learn is that Christ, Truth, understood and demonstrated, is the only thing, which can save the world. They will have to see that Christ is not a person, but the reflection of the infinite Person or God. Christ is Truth, the divine ideal, the truth about you and me and all mankind, the truth about everything as God knows it, and as we understand that Christ it proves itself.

There ends the tone of Truth as Love, so let us look back briefly, and see how this tone has developed perfectly naturally from that of Truth as Truth, the outstanding feature of which was the parable of the marriage arranged by the king for his son. We saw that in order to attend the marriage of the compound idea man, at which we see all interests united in the one divinity, we need the wedding garment of absolute sincerity. The question we have to ask ourselves is this: Do we love this idea of Science whole-heartedly enough to put all we have into it, to give it "absolute consecration of thought, energy, and desire" (S. & H. 3:16), to live it and love it and identify ourselves with it, to give it to our fellow-men? We must be quite honest with ourselves. The demand on us is "Study thoroughly the letter and imbibe the spirit" (S. & H. 495:27-8). It is no good superficially studying all these symbols unless we are consecrating ourselves to imbibing the spirit of Science. The letter and the spirit must be wedded. If you are not prepared to be completely in earnest, then it is an honest position to say, "I can't be bothered with it at present," but you can never fool Principle. If you are not wholehearted, but pretend to be, you will find yourself in a false position and you will be excluded from the marriage feast.

When we came to the tone of Truth as Love, we saw in the parable of the virgins that if we have the wisdom of Mind, the virgin thought of Spirit, and the consecration of Soul, then we have spiritual understanding

enough to go on and touch the hem of Principle, – to meet the bridegroom. As the idea of Principle comes to us, we first of all see Christ as Life, as the Son of man and then as Truth, the Son of God, and then in Truth as Love we see that Christ-idea fulfilled. Like the five wise virgins, our sense of the days of creation must be consecrated and inspired so that they lead us to an understanding of the Word of God at the point of Life, when “the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,” and “then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory,” – Christ will be seen as Truth fulfilled in Love. Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” the Christ fulfilled in divine Love. And so the five wise virgins in you, that cultivated spiritual understanding which enables you to con-secrate thought to Principle and its idea, – will touch the hem of the garment of the Christ-idea at the point of Life, the Son of man, and then the Son of man will yield to the Son of God, or Truth, and then you will see in Truth as Love that the Christ is always fulfilled, that Truth is forever embosomed in divine Love.

Your Donations Make It Possible

Maintaining a site as complex as www.mbeinstitute.org can be a daunting and costly task, but with the assistance of visitors like yourself, we will be able to continue to provide the quality articles and information you've come to depend on. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and generosity. Please mail or click for secure online transfer of your tax-deductible donation today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ *(your receipt will be mailed to this address)*

Email: _____

Mail to: The Mary Baker Eddy Institute
 3350 North Key Drive, #B313
 North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Secure Online Transfer: [**Paypal**](#)

