

11_15.11.23

Topic: Random Acts of Kindness or Affection's Demand?

The service began with singing Hymn 179:

Margaret Morrison, Christian Science Hymnal, No. 179 © 1932, renewed 1960 The Christian Science Board of Directors

Love one another,—word of revelation; / Love frees from error's thrall,—Love is liberation. / Love's way the Master trod; / He that loves shall walk with God. / Love is the royal way.

Readings from The Holy Bible

1. II Sam. 2:6 the (to :)

... the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: ...

2. Ps. 117:2

For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

3. Isa. 54:10

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

4. Matt. 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

5. Matt. 5:1, 2, 7

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, ... Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

6. Luke 10:30 A, 33–35

... A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ... But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

7. I John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

8. Matt. 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9. Luke 7:36–48, 50 Thy

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou

didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. ... Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

10. Matt. 6:22

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

11. Matt. 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

12. Luke 22:47–51

And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss? When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

13. Ps. 34:14

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

14. Rom. 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

15. Col. 3:12, 13 (to 2nd ,)

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, ...

Correlative passages from the Christian Science textbook *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

1. SH 496:5

You will learn that in Christian Science the first duty is to obey God, to have one Mind, and to love another as yourself.

2. SH 8:28–30

We should examine ourselves and learn what is the affection and purpose of the heart, for in this way only can we learn what we honestly are.

3. SH 15:26–27

Self-forgetfulness, purity, and affection are constant prayers.

4. SH 9:17

Dost thou “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”? This command includes much, even the surrender of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship. This is the El Dorado of Christianity. It involves the Science of Life, and recognizes only the divine control of Spirit, in which Soul is our master, and material sense and human will have no place.

5. SH 248:29

Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.

6. SH 48:17

Judas had the world’s weapons. Jesus had not one of them, and chose not the world’s means of defence. “He opened not his mouth.” The great demonstrator of Truth and Love was silent before envy and hate. Peter would have smitten the enemies of his Master, but Jesus forbade him, thus rebuking resentment or animal courage. He said: “Put up thy sword.”

7. SH 138:17–22, 25–30

Jesus established in the Christian era the precedent for all Christianity, theology, and healing. Christians are under as direct orders now, as they were then, to be Christlike, to possess the Christ-spirit, to follow the Christ-example, and to heal

the sick as well as the sinning. ... The Christian can prove this to-day as readily as it was proved centuries ago.

Our Master said to every follower: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature! . . . Heal the sick! . . . Love thy neighbor as thyself!”

8. SH 54:3–17

Out of the amplitude of his pure affection, he defined Love. With the affluence of Truth, he vanquished error. The world acknowledged not his righteousness, seeing it not; but earth received the harmony his glorified example introduced.

Who is ready to follow his teaching and example? All must sooner or later plant themselves in Christ, the true idea of God. That he might liberally pour his dear-bought treasures into empty or sin-filled human storehouses, was the inspiration of Jesus’ intense human sacrifice. In witness of his divine commission, he presented the proof that Life, Truth, and Love heal the sick and the sinning, and triumph over death through Mind, not matter. This was the highest proof he could have offered of divine Love.

9. SH 362:1–12; 363:8–15, 24–3; 364:8–12

It is related in the seventh chapter of Luke’s Gospel that Jesus was once the honored guest of a certain Pharisee, by name Simon, though he was quite unlike Simon the disciple. While they were at meat, an unusual incident occurred, as if to interrupt the scene of Oriental festivity. A “strange woman” came in. Heedless of the fact that she was debarred from such a place and such society, especially under the stern rules of rabbinical law, as positively as if she were a Hindoo pariah intruding upon the household of a high-caste Brahman, this woman (Mary Magdalene, as she has since been called) approached Jesus. ... Did Jesus spurn the woman? Did he repel her adoration? No! He regarded her compassionately. Nor was this all. Knowing what those around him were saying in their hearts, especially his host, — that they were wondering why, being a prophet, the exalted guest did not at once detect the woman’s immoral status and bid her depart, — knowing this, Jesus rebuked them with a short story or parable. ... Why did he thus summarize her debt to divine Love? Had she repented and reformed, and did his insight detect this unspoken moral uprising? She bathed his feet with her tears before she anointed them with the oil. In the absence of other proofs, was her grief sufficient evidence to warrant the

expectation of her repentance, reformation, and growth in wisdom? Certainly there was encouragement in the mere fact that she was showing her affection for a man of undoubted goodness and purity, who has since been rightfully regarded as the best man that ever trod this planet. ... Which was the higher tribute to such ineffable affection, the hospitality of the Pharisee or the contrition of the Magdalen? This query Jesus answered by rebuking self-righteousness and declaring the absolution of the penitent.

10. SH 435:19–23

Watching beside the couch of pain in the exercise of a love that “is the fulfilling of the law,” — doing “unto others as ye would that they should do unto you,” — this is no infringement of law, for no demand, human or divine, renders it just to punish a man for acting justly.

11. SH 147:29

A pure affection takes form in goodness, but Science alone reveals the divine Principle of goodness and demonstrates its rules.

12. SH 65:7–8

If the foundations of human affection are consistent with progress, they will be strong and enduring.

13. SH 57:22–24

Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, enlarging, purifying, and elevating it.

14. SH 316:7

Christ, Truth, was demonstrated through Jesus to prove the power of Spirit over the flesh, — to show that Truth is made manifest by its effects upon the human mind and body, healing sickness and destroying sin.

15. SH 241:19

The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin. Our Master said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

16. SH 183:21–24

Divine Mind rightly demands man's entire obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for any lesser loyalty. Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength.

The readings concluded with silent prayer followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew Chapter 6.

The congregation then sang Hymn 178:

Based on the Danish of Nikolaj F. S. Grundtvig, Christian Science Hymnal, No. 178 © 1932, renewed 1960 The Christian Science Board of Directors

Love, the Golden Rule of living, / Showeth forth the perfect Mind; / Love, our debt to God who gives it, / All compassion is, and kind; / Charity the law fulfilleth, / Mid the nations rancor stilleth; / Loving hearts in friendship blend, / One in Him, our heavenly Friend.

The First Reader read announcements from the desk and then opened the meeting to the floor giving those in attendance the opportunity to share healings and inspiration gained from the study and practice of Christian Science.

The meeting closed with Hymn 340:

Frederick W. Faber, Christian Science Hymnal, No. 340 © 1932, renewed 1960 The Christian Science Board of Directors*

For the love of God is broader / Than is seen by human mind, / And the heart of the Eternal / Is most wonderfully kind.