

Wednesday, June 25, 2014
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: How is it possible that divine Love always meets our needs? Especially in terms of facing down the issues of economic injustice and income disparity.

HYMNS: 229 76 71

THE BIBLE (The Message)

Psalms 82

1 God calls the judges into his courtroom, he puts all the judges in the dock.
2 "Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder.
3 You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break;
4 Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them."

Numbers 26

33 Zelophehad son of Hepher had no sons, only daughters. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

52 God spoke to Moses:

53 "Divide up the inheritance of the land based on population.

54 A larger group gets a larger inheritance; a smaller group gets a smaller inheritance - each gets its inheritance based on the population count.

55 "Make sure that the land is assigned by lot.

Numbers 27

1 The daughters of Zelophehad showed up.

2 They came to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. They stood before Moses and Eleazar the priest and before the leaders and the congregation and said,

3 "Our father died in the wilderness. He wasn't part of Korah's rebel anti-God gang. He died for his own sins. And he left no sons.

4 But why should our father's name die out from his clan just because he had no sons? So give us an inheritance among our father's relatives."

5 Moses brought their case to God.

6 God ruled:

7 "Zelophehad's daughters are right. Give them land as an inheritance among their father's relatives. Give them their father's inheritance.

8 "Then tell the People of Israel, If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter.

9 If he has no daughter, give it to his brothers.

10 If he has no brothers, give it to his father's brothers.

11 If his father had no brothers, give it to the nearest relative so that the inheritance stays in the family. This is the standard procedure for the People of Israel, as commanded by God through Moses."

Ezekiel 45

9 "This is the Message of God, the Master: 'I've put up with you long enough, princes of Israel! Quit bullying and taking advantage of my people. Do what's just and right for a change.

II Kings 4

1 One day the wife of a man from the guild of prophets called out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead. You well know what a good man he was, devoted to God. And now the man to whom he was in debt is on his way to collect by taking my two children as slaves."

2 Elisha said, "I wonder how I can be of help. Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Nothing," she said. "Well, I do have a little oil."

3 "Here's what you do," said Elisha. "Go up and down the street and borrow jugs and bowls from all your neighbors. And not just a few - all you can get.

4 Then come home and lock the door behind you, you and your sons. Pour oil into each container; when each is full, set it aside."

5 She did what he said. She locked the door behind her and her sons; as they brought the containers to her, she filled them.

6 When all the jugs and bowls were full, she said to one of her sons, "Another jug, please." He said, "That's it. There are no more jugs." Then the oil stopped.

7She went and told the story to the man of God. He said, "Go sell the oil and make good on your debts. Live, both you and your sons, on what's left."

Psalms 89

8God of the Angel Armies, who is like you, powerful and faithful from every angle?

14The Right and Justice are the roots of your rule; Love and Truth are its fruits.

15Blessed are the people who know the passwords of praise, who shout on parade in the bright presence of God.

Matt 18

23"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants.

24As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars.

25He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

26"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.'

27Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

28"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

29"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.'

30But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid.

31When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

32"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy.'

33Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?'

34The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt.

35And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

Micah 6

6How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings topped off with yearling calves?

8But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love,

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 64:1-2, 8-10

Want of uniform justice is a crying evil caused by the selfishness and inhumanity of man.

Pride, envy, or jealousy seems on most occasions to be the master of ceremonies, ruling out primitive Christianity.

SH 118:26

The definitions of material law, as given by natural science, represent a kingdom necessarily divided against itself, because these definitions portray law as physical, not spiritual. Therefore they contradict the divine decrees and violate the law of Love, in which nature and God are one and the natural order of heaven comes down to earth.

SH 542:1

The belief of life in matter sins at every step. It incurs divine displeasure, and it would kill Jesus that it might be rid of troublesome Truth. Material beliefs would slay the spiritual idea whenever and wherever it appears. Though error hides behind a lie and excuses guilt, error cannot forever be concealed. Truth, through her eternal laws, unveils error. Truth causes sin to betray itself, and sets upon error the mark of the beast. Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy.

SH 225:16

A few immortal sentences, breathing the omnipotence of divine justice, have been potent to break despotic fetters and abolish the whipping-post and slave market; but oppression neither went down in

blood, nor did the breath of freedom come from the cannon's mouth. Love is the liberator.

SH 384:3-12

Let us reassure ourselves with the law of Love. God never punishes man for doing right, for honest labor, or for deeds of kindness, though they expose him to fatigue, cold, heat, contagion. If man seems to incur the penalty through matter, this is but a belief of mortal mind, not an enactment of wisdom, and man has only to enter his protest against this belief in order to annul it.

SH 391:17-18

Justice is the moral signification of law. Injustice declares the absence of law.

SH 572:12-17

Love fulfils the law of Christian Science, and nothing short of this divine Principle, understood and demonstrated, can ever furnish the vision of the Apocalypse, open the seven seals of error with Truth, or uncover the myriad illusions of sin, sickness, and death.

SH 257:24; 258:1-6

Who hath found finite life or love sufficient to meet the demands of human want and woe, — to still the desires, to satisfy the aspirations? Infinite Mind cannot be limited to a finite form, or Mind would lose its infinite character as inexhaustible Love, eternal Life, omnipotent Truth.

A mortal, corporeal, or finite conception of God cannot embrace the glories of limitless, incorporeal Life and Love. Hence the unsatisfied human craving for something better, higher, holier, than is afforded by a material belief in a physical God and man.

SH 35:30-4, 6

The design of Love is to reform the sinner. If the sinner's punishment here has been insufficient to reform him, the good man's heaven would be a hell to the sinner. They, who know not purity and affection by experience, can never find bliss in the blessed company of Truth and Love simply through translation into another sphere. ... To remit the penalty due for sin, would be for Truth to pardon error. Escape from punishment is not in accordance with God's government, since justice is the handmaid of mercy.

SH 36:19

A selfish and limited mind may be unjust, but the unlimited and divine Mind is the immortal law of justice as well as of mercy. It is quite as impossible for sinners to receive their full punishment this side of the grave as for this world to bestow on the righteous their full reward. It is useless to suppose that the wicked can gloat over their offences to the last moment and then be suddenly pardoned and pushed into heaven, or that the hand of Love is satisfied with giving us only toil, sacrifice, cross-bearing, multiplied trials, and mockery of our motives in return for our efforts at well doing.

SH 140:25-27

The Christian Science God is universal, eternal, divine Love, which changeth not and causeth no evil, disease, nor death.

SH 561:1

The understanding of Truth and Love, the Principle which works out the ends of eternal good and destroys both faith in evil and the practice of evil, leads to the discernment of the divine idea.

SH 494:10

Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need. It is not well to imagine that Jesus demonstrated the divine power to heal only for a select number or for a limited period of time, since to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.

SH 224:22

A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he came of old to the patriarch at noonday?