

Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist - Chicago, IL
Readings for July 13, 2016

Hymn 31 poem by Mary Baker Eddy "Love"

Tonight's readings relate to the subject we explored last week and build on the theme,
"Resilience and Humility – Agents of healing & change"

The readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

Introduction

From 1st Peter

Clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for
"God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble."

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. The God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:5-10

Proverbs

When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble.

Proverbs 11:2

From *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

Man is but the humble servant of the restful Mind.

SH 119

Main Readings

From *Science and Health*

Jesus mapped out the path for others.

SH 38

Matthew

Jesus began to reproach the cities in which most of the deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained

until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying burdens, and I will give you rest. Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.

Matt 11:20-29

Luke The Sermon on the Plain

And when day came, Jesus called his disciples and chose twelve of them. He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven.

But I say to you, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6:13-23; 27-36

From Science and Health

Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man's oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage. His mission was both individual and collective. He did life's work aright not only in justice to himself, but in mercy to mortals, — to show them how to do theirs, but not to do it for them nor to relieve them of a single responsibility. Jesus acted boldly, against the accredited evidence of the senses, against Pharisaical creeds and practices.

SH 18

Jesus of Nazareth was the most scientific man that ever trod the globe. He plunged beneath the material surface of things, and found the spiritual cause. SH 313

Christianity as Jesus taught it was not a creed, nor a system of ceremonies, nor a special gift from a ritualistic Jehovah; but it was the demonstration of divine Love.

SH 135

Jesus strips all disguise from error, when his teachings are fully understood. By parable and argument he explains the impossibility of good producing evil; and he also scientifically demonstrates this great fact, proving by what are wrongly called miracles, that sin, sickness, and death are beliefs — illusive errors — which he could and did destroy.

SH 343

The Bible teaches transformation of the body by the renewal of Spirit. Take away the spiritual signification of Scripture, and that compilation can do no more for mortals than can moonbeams to melt a river of ice. The error of the ages is preaching without practice.

SH 241

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. 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!"

SH 138

Conclusion

Colossians

Holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Col 3:12-14

And, from *Science and Health*

If we feel the aspiration, humility, gratitude, and love which our words express, —this God accepts. Praying for humility with whatever fervency of expression does not always mean a desire for it. 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.

The test of all prayer lies in the answer to these questions: Do we love our neighbor better because of this asking? Do we pursue the old selfishness, satisfied with having prayed for something better, though we give no evidence of the sincerity of our requests by living consistently with our prayer? If selfishness has given place to kindness, we shall regard our neighbor unselfishly, and bless them that curse us; but we shall never meet this great duty simply by asking that it may be done.

There is a cross to be taken up before we can enjoy the fruition of our hope and faith.

SH 8

HYMN 216 O he who trusts in God's protection

CLOSING HYMN 450 O house of God, built on a firm foundation