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Christian Science Lecture

(Continued from Page Three.)

Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

When Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am," he referred to his real self—the Christ. Had he meant that the material flesh and blood man which they there saw with their physical eyes had existed before Abraham, his statement could not have been true, for that material body was actually less than fifty years old. His statement was a solemn declaration of the divinity and eternality of the Christ—the real man—who is and must be the Son of God. The Jews did not understand him. Because of their materiality they had no comprehension of the spiritual man made in the image and likeness of God. The only kind of man they could comprehend was the material man—the Adam-man—who is not and never can be the Son of God.

In Christian Science we learn that Jesus was human, but Christ was divine. We worship the invisible, spiritual Christ as the Son of God, and we love and reverence Jesus as the man who taught the Christ Truth, and who revealed the spiritual man by his life and his love.

The following quotation from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" will be most helpful: "Jesus was the highest human concept of the perfect man."—Page 482, line 19. "Jesus was born of Mary. Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to man speaking to human consciousness."—Page 332, lines 9 to 11. "Jesus demonstrated Christ; he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God—the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the Divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth."—Page 332, lines 19 to 22.

Christian Scientists, therefore, are not looking for the second coming of the man, Jesus. His work was finished when he ascended so high into the realm of Spirit that the people could no longer see him as a material man. The Christ Truth, however, is here now and always, continually knocking at the door of every human consciousness, seeking to comfort those who are in distress, to supply the needs of those who are in want, to heal those who are sick, to lift the

burdens from those who are heavy laden, and thus to perform the office of mediator by bringing mankind into relationship with God. This Evangel is the Christ, the eternal, ever present Comforter.

John said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." (John 1, 1, 2.) The Word is the eternal Christ Truth, and not a material personality.

All who believe that flesh and blood are divine should read what the Bible says: "Now this I say, brethren, flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Cor. xv, 50.)

Man.

Sooner or later every one must learn the truth about man. When one asks himself, who is man, what is he? where does he come from, is he spiritual, or is he material? many channels for thought are opened. Upon the correct answer to these questions will depend the solution of every human problem.

Every one has read the two differing accounts of the creation in the Bible. In the first chapter of Genesis we are told that God created man in his own image, and after his own likeness, and that he made him good. In the second chapter of Genesis, however we find the allegorical account of how God came to this earth and made man out of the dust of the ground. Then follows the story of Adam and Eve, and the garden of Eden. We also read that a deep sleep fell upon Adam, and then that sin appeared and brother murdered brother, and so, from that time until now, the man made of dust has been a sinner and has been at enmity against God.

In view of all this it becomes vitally important that we find out the truth about man. Was man made in the image and likeness of God, and hence created a spiritual being, or was he made out of the dust of the ground as a material being?

Christian Science accepts the first account of the creation as true, and insists that man is spiritual and not material. This makes it necessary for Christian Science to explain the matter, and to make plain how it is possible for man to be wholly spiritual when we seem to see him as flesh and blood with our actual physical eyes. Christian Science does this, and makes the matter perfectly clear by showing that the material man is nothing more or less than the carnal mind's false concept of man.

The carnal human mind is entirely material, hence it "is enmity against God," because God is Spirit and Spirit and matter are opposite. The carnal mind is composed of the aggregated beliefs founded upon the testimony of the five physical senses,

which senses are wholly material, hence the carnal mind being material, can not comprehend nor cognize the things of Spirit.

It is these material elements composing the human mind that cause it to see everything as material. Being material, it thinks in terms of matter, and is incapable of thinking in terms of Spirit. By an inevitable reversal it reduces everything to the dead level of matter in order to comprehend it.

It is due to this materiality that the human mind is incapable of thinking of God wholly as Spirit, and therefore, in its material belief, it reverses the nature and character of God, and converts Him into a material man, seated upon a material throne up in the sky. Likewise, because of this same material element, the human mind is incapable of thinking of the kingdom of God as a spiritual state of consciousness, which Jesus declared "is within you," and transforms it in belief into a material place somewhere in the sky, with trappings of material splendor such as one would expect to find in the palaces of men.

Since the human mind is prevented by its own materiality from even comprehending God as Spirit and the kingdom of Heaven as a spiritual state of consciousness, it is equally incapable of thinking of man as a spiritual being. By reason of the same inevitable reversal it thinks of man as material, and hence sees him as such.

But no matter how sincerely people may believe that God is a magnified man, seated upon a material throne, and having a material habitation in a material place called Heaven, such belief does not make it true. God is spirit, and his universe is wholly spiritual. There is not one material element in him nor in anything that he created. He did not create matter in any form, nor did he create a material man. God created everything spiritually and not materially, and the only kind of man created by him was the perfect spiritual man, made in his own image and likeness, precisely as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

The Adam-man is not the image of God, and it is nowhere stated in the second account of the creation in the second chapter of Genesis that the Adam-man was made in God's image and likeness, or that he was made perfect. Those statements are to be found in the first chapter, and are used in relation to the real man. But in spite of this, people have gone on believing that the Bible taught that Adam was made in God's image.

Christian Science is the only system of teaching that I know anything about that even makes an attempt to explain the difference between man and the Adam-man, and it does explain it and makes it perfectly plain, by pointing out, as has already been said, that the Adam-man is merely the false, material misconception of man. It is as though one were to look through green eyeglasses. As long as he did so, everything would appear to be green. If he were to try to remove the green from the object, he could not do so, for the reason that the green was not in the object, though appearing to be there, but was in the lens through which he looked at it. The only thing necessary for him to do in order to translate the entire green universe back into its normal aspect would be merely to take off the green lenses.

In precisely the same way the material universe and material man are translated back into the spiritual, where in fact they have always been, by merely taking off the material eyeglasses through which we have looked at them. If it were conceivable that one could now rid himself of every material element in his mentality, and of every sin and false belief, so that nothing remained in his consciousness except the spiritualized thought, he would not then see his fellow man as material, but would see him for what he really is, namely, the perfect spiritual child of God.

Jesus Knew There Was No Substance in Matter.

Jesus knew that there was no substance in matter, and he knew it so perfectly that he walked through solid doors and walls. He knew what was true about matter, namely, that it is only manifested belief of the material, carnal mind, and since he did not have that material mind, matter did not appear to him as substance. His consciousness was spiritualized. He knew that the only substance is Spirit, but because of the material element in their consciousness the people were unable to see or comprehend Spirit as substance. They could only think of matter as substance, and therefore, to them, matter appeared as substance.

Knowing that there was no substance in matter, he knew that man was not material. Mrs. Eddy pointed out many years ago in Science and Health that Jesus saw the real man where mortals saw the mortal man, and that his true view healed the sick. The more one ponders over this

statement the more it becomes apparent that it is necessarily true. When there came to Jesus the man who had been born blind, and who had grown from infancy to mature years without the perfect organs of sight, Jesus healed him instantly. He looked through the material veil and saw the real man, who, in every case, is perfect. Jesus knew that God had never created one of his children without sight. God never made an imperfect man. Man being perfect has perfect spiritual senses, and by seeing the perfect man, Jesus pulled away the mask, and allowed the perfect condition to appear. When the paralytic was brought to him, Jesus, by seeing the real man, pulled away the mask created by the material beliefs of the carnal mind, thus allowing the real condition of harmony and perfect being to appear and the man was instantly healed. Since the real man is perfect in every case, when the imperfect material beliefs are destroyed by the operation of the Christ Truth human beings can not fail to manifest improved conditions.

Jesus also knew that since man was not material and did not live in matter, he could not die in matter. He knew this so clearly that he was able to call Lazarus back after his body had been in the tomb four days. Jesus knew that the real man, being spiritual, can never die, for God is his life, so that when he stood before the tomb of Lazarus he knew that the only thing that had taken place there was that certain human beings, who were governed by the carnal mind, had accepted a changed belief concerning Lazarus. They believed that he had lived in matter and was material, and hence that he had died in matter. Jesus looked through the mask and saw the real man who was alive all of the time, and by seeing the real man, Jesus destroyed the false concept, and thus made it possible for the real condition of life to appear. Having seen the real man, who was alive every instant, all that Jesus needed to do was to say, "Lazarus, come forth," and he came forth, alive.

Man is Governed by Spiritual Law.

Jesus also knew what was true about law. He knew that the only law that has any legitimate authority over man is the law of Spirit. He likewise knew that the carnal human mind believes that matter possesses power and intelligence apart from God, and, therefore, that matter has power to make laws to govern human beings. He desired to teach mankind the truth about this, and, for his purpose, he selected what is called in the present day the law of gravitation. He walked on the water in strict opposition to the law of gravitation. He knew that the carnal human mind, because of its materiality, was incapable of comprehending spiritual law, and could only conceive of law as created by matter. He knew that the so-called law of gravitation was the carnal mind's false concept of law, and that this counterfeit mind believes that law is material for precisely the same reason that it believes that God is a material personality, sitting upon a material throne, and that Heaven is a material place. All of the works of Jesus were done in opposition to material laws. He proved that the law of Spirit is supreme and has power to annul every material law, and it was this knowledge that gave him power to walk on the water, to heal the sick, and raise the dead, contrary to material laws.

Christian Science asks those who believe in the reality and power of material laws, from what source does matter derive its power to make laws? Since matter has neither life, intelligence, nor volition, how can it make laws? Has God abdicated from his high position as the governor of the universe, and turned over to insensible matter the power to make laws that shall govern and destroy his own children? Manifestly not. This theory is neither rational nor probable. Yet the human carnal mind is so material that people go right on blindly believing that material laws have more power to destroy them than God has to save them. In spite of wide difference of belief as to what are material laws, when once a person believes something to be a material law it becomes so important in his estimation as to cause him to think that God Himself must act in obedience to it.

What, then, is the truth about these so-called material laws? Christian Science shows that God's universe is governed entirely by spiritual law, and that there are no other laws in reality. Material laws are nothing more nor less than material beliefs emanating from the material or carnal mind, which is opposed to God and is "enmity against God." They are not laws at all, for when they are examined under the light of Science, they are found to be only laws of material belief, and when the belief is corrected by spiritual truth that which appeared to be material law disappears. Whenever a person believes a thing to be a material law it will blind him as long as his belief

Harry N. Lofland

Republican
Candidate
for
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lasts just the same as if it were a real law, while others who do not believe or fear it are not governed by it. The only power possessed by material laws is the power that comes from erring human belief in them. If every person in the world should cease believing in the power of material laws, through the understanding of their falsity and of the supremacy of the laws of spirit, as Jesus understood, all material laws would disappear, and humanity would instantly be emancipated from the suffering and death which they produce. Sooner or later this understanding must come to every one. Christian Science is teaching and helping people to rise above their fears and material beliefs by giving to them an understanding of the omnipotence of Spirit, and, as they learn, their human conditions improve.

Man is Now Immortal.

The belief that man is now material, but that his immortality will appear after the death of his physical body, is rapidly giving place to a better understanding. It is beginning to become tolerably clear to many people that death is not the doorway through which human beings pass from a material state of existence into the kingdom of Heaven.

St. Paul taught and declared that death is an enemy that can and will be destroyed. Enoch got rid of his physical body without dying. Elijah did the same. Obviously they destroyed and got rid of every material and erroneous mental quality. This evangelization went on until there was nothing left in their consciousness but the spiritualized thought. They brought every material thought into obedience to Christ, and when the last mortal thought had thus been conquered and destroyed there was nothing of the carnal mind left in their consciousness to throw a material concept over them. People were then no longer able to see them as material men. They literally walked with God, as the Bible states, for material beliefs of the carnal mind no longer intervened to separate them from Him.

Jesus submitted to the death of his body on the cross in order that he might be the Wayshower. He had already raised from the dead, Lazarus, and the daughter of Jairus, and the son of the widow of Nain, but he wanted to go further and prove for the benefit of mankind that death is not a divine necessity and that it is possible for one to conquer it for himself through his own understanding of the law of Life. He wanted to prove that man is now immortal

and that his immortality is brought to light not by the death of the physical body but by demonstrating the power of Spirit. He, therefore, resuscitated his own body, after it had been in the tomb until the third day. He brought it back and exhibited it to hundreds of people, so that there might not be any question or dispute about it. Thereafter he got rid of his body precisely as Enoch and Elijah had done. He thus proved the omnipotence of Spirit and its availability to meet the last and final human need. He proved that God is Life, and that man is now immortal and can never die, and that even the belief in death, that exists nowhere except in the carnal mind, can be destroyed by the Christ Truth which he taught.

Man Is Now the Son of God.

Do you think it is arrogant too much for us to claim that we are now the children of God? If so, then read what St. John says in 1, John iii, 2: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

In making this statement it was as though John had said: "Jesus has now taught me the truth about myself. I now know that we are spiritual and not material. I can not tell you what my spiritual self looks like, for I can not see the spiritual man through material eyes, but I know that when he shall appear we shall be like him."

St. Paul has said substantially the same thing in Romans viii, 16 and 17, where we read, "We are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ."

Every one knows that when an estate is left to heirs, jointly, they take it share and share alike. If we are joint heirs with Christ, we have inherited the same spiritual being, the same life, the same immortality. It is through the understanding and apprehension of our real being that we rise above the fears and material beliefs of the carnal mind. In this way Christian Science heals the sick, regenerates the sinner, destroys fear and brings peace in place of discord.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." and Christian Science is teaching the human race that the true way to come unto him is to live the life that he lived, to manifest the love that he manifested, and to demonstrate the truth that he taught. In this way it has helped many people to find rest, and peace, and health.

Christy Mathewson by Walt Mason

When Christy's dead a hundred years, the fans will still discuss his play, and sigh, while shedding briny tears, "There are no men like him today! He used the brains behind his brow, and gave the foe a grievous jar; the chroniclers have told us how he was for years and years a star. Great pitchers came and cut some grass, and died, and then forgotten were; he saw them come, and saw them pass, and still kicked up a mighty stir." The chroniclers will also tell how Christy, when a game was played, filled up the pipe he loved so well, to soothe his nerves, all tired and frayed. He smoked Tuxedo every time, the critic's smoke, the mild and rare, Tuxedo fragrant and sublime, the cool, sweet smoke beyond compare.



CHRISTY MATHEWSON
Pitcher—New York Giants
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Christy Mathewson

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