

THE SALESMAN

Jesus was facing the most difficult situation of his experience. He was arraigned before Pilate, with the chief priests, elders and scribes and the whole council pitted against him, and not a human being to help him. He was the victim of a plot to kill him, which today we would call a "frame-up," and he knew perfectly well what was going on.

At this point Pilate asked him if he were King of the Jews. Jesus answered him that it was as Pilate said, thus making the claim that he was the son of God, that he was King of Israel, or that over man he had dominion.

Then did the human mind, the devil itself, set upon Jesus and accuse him of many things, just as in lesser ways the human mind attacks us through evil suggestions. What did Jesus do about it? Did he argue with it or against it, contradict the false assertions; did he mumble under his breath, or audibly, certain affirmations or declarations of spiritual truths in opposition to the presented errors, or recognize the presence of the human mind in any way. It was so astonishing to Pilate, that he said, as related, "Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee," but Jesus yet answered nothing.

Thus at the very zenith of his earthly career, at the point of his most difficult temptation, and just prior to his greatest victory, the vanquishment of death itself, he verily put into practice that which he had taught. He refused to recognize the human mind in any way whatsoever. The door of his consciousness he closed completely against the entrance of error. In doing this, he truly and scientifically prayed, for the rejection of the human mind is the reconception of the Christ. As Paul said later on, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we [that is, with the human mind] know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us."

As a result of thus meeting the attack of evil, Jesus' consciousness became a sanctuary for Truth, wherein the Christ, the very manifest presence of God, had taken up its abode, and no matter what was going on about him or happening to him, this Christ was operating to save him. Paul again tells us, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think [with the human mind], according to the power that worketh in us;" and this power, the Christ, or the very presence of God Himself, was praying for or saving him from and in spite of, whatever seemed to be going on.

When evil, or the human mind, through its thinking, attacked him or presented itself to his consciousness, he utterly refused to entertain it in any way, and so he maintained his consciousness as a sanctuary for the Christ. He stood "porter at the door of thought" (*Science and Health*), and refused admittance to error of any kind.

Like a salesman selling his wares, does this human mind come with its fruits of good and evil. The salesman approaches your house, which ought to be a sanctuary sanctified to your family, your friends, your goods and chattels, and yourself. You do not wish a total stranger to enter in and spoil your sanctuary. If you open the door even a little, only to tell him to be gone, the salesman sticks his foot in the crack and in a moment more

he is wholly within and striving to sell his wares. Your sanctuary is no longer a sanctuary, and so to prevent this, you must absolutely refuse to open the door or even answer his knock. Then does your sanctuary remain a sanctuary.

The human mind is the salesman, constantly knocking at the door of your consciousness, demanding admission to sell his tempting wares. At first he never offers anything but the most tempting, pleasurable, luscious fruits; but if you let him in, you will find that in his bag he carries all manner of evils — sickness, sin, death, poverty, and other troubles. You must keep the door tightly closed, must be alert to know error's knock and ring, and not even flicker an eyelid when he approaches. Jesus said of himself in regard to this, but only after years of experience, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world [the human mind] cometh, and hath nothing in me." This, too, must be our goal. We must utterly refuse to argue with the presented error, whatever it may be; refuse to contradict it; refuse to make declarations or affirmations of Truths opposing the presented errors; refuse even to tell it to be gone; for to do any of these things is to recognize error in some way, and so open the door, be it ever so little, and instantly the salesman's foot will be in the opening, and in another moment the whole human mind will be in, and consciousness no more a sanctuary.

Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray . . ." Could anything be plainer? Again making it so clear that "the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein," he said, "When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do [do not argue with, talk back to, or recognize evil in any way]; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him."

You cannot pray with your consciousness filled with error. You cannot enjoy the privacy of your home with a stranger therein. "When thou hast shut thy door," then pray, not before. "Closed to error, it is open to Truth." (*Science and Health*) Jesus, at the aforesaid arraignment, had the door closed to error, but open to Truth. He utterly refused to use vain repetitions. The door was closed. Thus his consciousness was filled with the Christ, the actual presence of God, and that consciousness could and did pray. It was no labored human effort on the part of Jesus. It was "the unlabored motion of the divine energy." (*Science and Health*) It was "the Father within" doing the work.

Just as when your gas tank is filled with pure gasoline, with all impurities rejected, then does the gas explode or act, and driving the engine brings the car, and whoever and whatever is in it, safely to its destination. So when consciousness is a sanctuary for the Christ, filled with the presence of God, to the exclusion of every thought of the human mind, then does the Christ act or pray, and so brings whoever or whatever is in that consciousness safely into the haven of Soul, wherein all is holy, whole, healed, and saved.

The Bible repeatedly speaks of this. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh [the fleshly or human mind] profiteth nothing." This Spirit is "the Father within" of which Jesus was so constantly telling us. "This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power [of the human mind], but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Paul refers to it as "the power that worketh in us." Ever is this power, the Christ, or God, manifest, working away within us, quite irrespective of what is going on with us, with the body, or with the world; just as the gas is exploding and driving the engine quite irrespective of what is going on in the car or what is in it. Day and night, it never ceases to work for

us and for the world, and soon it will be seen that “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.” This is holiness, wholeness, healing, and salvation.

Note what *Unity of Good* says: “To say there is a false claim, called *sickness*, is to admit all there is of sickness; for it is nothing but a false claim. To be healed, one must lose sight of a false claim. If the claim be present to the thought, then disease becomes as tangible as any reality.”