

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

No one is, or ever was, healed by a process. Jesus never healed by virtue of the words which he uttered. When he spoke to Lazarus the words, "Lazarus, come forth," Lazarus obeyed. It was not because Jesus said so that Lazarus lived; it was because Lazarus lived that Jesus said so.

The words which Jesus uttered are not of any particular moment so far as their healing efficacy is concerned. It was the life which Jesus lived that brought out the healing; in fact, it had all to do with the healing. He might have said anything or nothing at all, and still the applicant for healing would have received what he asked for; but if he or another had believed that the healing was the result of certain spoken words, and had tried to heal himself or another by the repetition of those words, no healing would have taken place.

It is the presence of the Christ which heals. Nothing else. One does not attain the presence of the Christ by a course of reading, or through teaching, even though the teaching be predicated on the reading of the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the lesson sermons, or other Christian Science literature. The truth comes by revelation. "Truth is a revelation" (*Science and Health*), and "Truth is revealed. It needs only to be practiced." (ibid). As this truth is revealed to one, he will find it set forth in those most wonderful books.

However much it may appear that we attain the Kingdom of God by the perusal of books, it is not so, and a moment of thought will make it evident. Suppose one were cast away on a desert island where there were no books, no reading matter whatever, it is most certain that that one could attain the Kingdom of God. However, having thus attained, on being supplied with the aforesaid books, if read and studied, he would corroborate that which he had already ascertained to be Truth.

Like the Jews of Berea, who "received the word [of God] with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, *whether those things were so.*" (Acts) Jesus made this perfectly plain, when the translation is correctly made, that one does not attain the kingdom by perusal of sacred writings, and rebuked this theory rather pointedly when he addressed those students of the Scriptures who evidently thus claimed they could find life eternal. He said, "Ye search the scriptures; for in them ye suppose ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." By reason of the common belief that one could thus find the kingdom or immortality, the translators of the King James version fell into the same error, and made the translation quite different from what it should be. They made it appear, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life," making it a command to search the Scriptures; whereas Jesus was pointing out the error, "Ye search the scriptures for in them ye suppose ye will find eternal life." He goes on to say that in them, of course, one would learn of the Christ, but tells them plainly that the way to find this eternal life is to "come to Me," the Christ.

One cannot instruct the divine Mind. In Isaiah, we find, "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?" This being the fact, why

endeavor to teach the divine Mind? And why attempt to teach the human mind, which at best is but a myth, wholly unintelligible, impossible to be taught anything permanently, much less those spiritual things which are of God? Moreover, whatever this mind may imbibe must be thrown into the discard with that same mythical human mind which is but the absence of the divine Mind, that absence being purely supposititious. Note what Mrs. Eddy has to say concerning the uselessness of attempting to teach this human mind anything, "How true it is that whatever is learned through material sense must be lost because such so-called knowledge is reversed by the spiritual facts of being in Science" (*Science and Health*) Certainly the divine Mind has no need of information, inasmuch as it already knows all. "Can we inform the infinite Mind of anything He does not already comprehend?" (ibid) Then why persistently study and endeavor to educate this human mind which is to be educated out of itself? Why cultivate that which must be utterly destroyed?

We must still the human mind, and let that mind be in us "which was also in Christ Jesus." We must, "Be still, and know that *I am God.*" As we still this human mind by refusing to recognize any but the spiritual senses, then does the Christ or divine Mind arise in us and becomes our Saviour, saving us from whatever we need to be saved.

Picture yourself in Vienna, ensconced in your hotel suite. You have your guidebook with you and are studying it intensively preparatory to your visit to Europe. You look up from your perusal of it and, addressing your companion, say, "Oh, the opera is on tonight. Let us go and hear it." At once you lay down your guidebook, dress and wend your way to the opera house. You do not remain in the hotel and continue the diligent study of the guidebook. Not at all. Should you do this, you would never hear the opera, and would never really know that it had taken place, except through the hearsay evidence of others who had attended the performance. If you would enjoy the opera, it is not sufficient to read of it in your guidebook, but rather must you lay the book aside and listen to the opera yourself.

You have been reading your guidebooks, the Bible and *Science and Health* for years; you have faithfully perused the lesson sermons and other Christian Science literature, and if such work would have enabled you to attain the goal of the Kingdom of God, it would have been accomplished long, long ago; but no matter how diligently and intensively you have pursued this course, you cannot find the kingdom that way.

We have searched the scriptures seeking eternal life, as Jesus said, and have found therein the tale of the Christ; we have discovered the records of others who have found their way into the kingdom, and their descriptions of what they found therein. But if we would find eternal life, we must "come to Me," must have Me, the I AM, God, the universal Mind-substance revealed to us individually. Then, if we will, we may do as those "noble" Jews of Berea did, "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so," which we have discovered are so.

We must make our contact with the I AM, or Me, of which the Word says, "This *me* is Spirit." (*Science and Health*) There is but one way to do this and that way is to live an evangelical life, or the life of the Christ. The Kingdom of God must be entered by each one individually, and no one can do this for another. This recalls a reported story of Mary Baker Eddy and one of her friends in Christian Science. It appears that one Monday, on Mrs. Eddy's way downtown in Boston, she met this friend, and having greeted her, said, "I did not see you in church, my dear, yesterday." "No," answered the friend, "you see my

husband is a traveling man and he did not get home last Saturday until very late. As he wanted to sleep and rest; I did so, too." Mrs. Eddy answered, "Quite right, my dear, but recollect this, that we do not go into the Kingdom of God the way the animals went into the ark, two by two." The fact is, that each must find one's own way into the kingdom. "He [Jesus] 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." (*Science and Health*)

These guidebooks are simply the records of those who have already attained this Kingdom of God, and they tell us of that experience in attaining that kingdom, blazing the trail for us. Of course, we do not necessarily require a guidebook at all, for they who first blazed the trail had none, but our gratitude should go forth to those who have provided those guidebooks telling of the blazed trail, thus making the attainment less difficult. Nevertheless, we must travel the road ourselves, each one individually, and to do this we must sometime lay down the guidebooks and take up the journey, staff in hand, to make the "promised land."

If one persists in interminably reading and re-reading almost every moment in the day and night, how can he expect to hear the voice of God which is saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," except insofar as the human mind may be inadvertently stilled as one reads and studies with the human mind. This stillness of the human mind enables one to hear the voice heretofore unheard, but which has been uttering itself all the while.

When you left your hotel in Vienna, you may not have known just where the opera house was to be found, so you sought the needed direction from some native who was familiar with the route. In the Kingdom of God, you are satisfied that therein are to be found health, life, love, abundance, plenty, and you know too that "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," and you may have need of those things; but like Job, you cry out, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" Then is the time to "stop, look, and listen." Then is the time to stop the mental gymnastics of the human mind, to be still, and to listen and watch for Him. Inquire of Him, your Ego, the "I" or Me, which is always with you and can never be separated from you. Ask of Him, follow Me, look to Him, to this I AM or Me, and He will direct you to where those things are that you should have.

Certain it is that you cannot hear the voice of God while busying yourself with the education of the human mind, by constant reading and study by that mind. Solomon had this to say of the folly of it, "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." You cannot hear the voice of God while attending to the wants of the human mind, any more than you can hear the opera and enjoy the opera while deeply engrossed in a guidebook.

Like John, we must hear "a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them."