

Garments of Grace Clothing Imagery in the Bible Lesson 12 2Q 2011 **Lesson for June 18, 2011 - "More Clothing Imagery"**
Come & Reason Sabbath School Class (June 4, 2011)

1. Stories
 - a. Hem of his garment story
 - b. Laying aside his garments to wash disciples feet
 - c. Rending of high priest's garments at Christ's inquisition
 - d. Garments of mockery before Pilate
 - e. Casting lots for his garments at the cross

2. Sabbath Afternoon Lesson: Introduction
 - a. The lesson lists the stories that are to be studied in this week's lesson along with a brief commentary. It ends by saying: "Just clothing, yes, but full of symbolism and meaning."
 - b. What are symbols?
 - c. How do we use symbols to communicate to others?
 - d. What would happen if your meaning for a symbol differed from what the person you were communicating with understood with that same symbol?
 - i. In preparation for a national based inspection of the children's hospital and our orthopaedic office, the physicians have been reminded that we are not to use certain abbreviations and symbols. There have been cases an abbreviation or symbol has been misunderstood and a patient has received 10x or 100x the appropriate dose of certain medications or the wrong medication resulting in illness and death.
 - e. Do you know of any Christian symbols that mean something different to you than a Christian friend may mean?
 - i. Is there any consequence to this difference of meaning?
 - ii. Is it important for you to correct how your friend uses those symbols?

iii. Is it important that we clarify our communication?

3. Sunday's Lesson: "Who Touched My Clothes?"

- a. Sunday's lesson goes over the story of the woman who was healed by touching the hem of Christ's robe.
- b. Why question (in red) at bottom of page: "Why would Jesus ask who touched His garment?"
 - (1) paragraph following this question there are two reasons supplied
 - (a) Witness to others
 - (b) Know it wasn't magical clothes that healed her
- c. Can you think of other Possible Reasons?
 - i. Do you think she was going to keep this a secret from those around her if Christ had not stopped?
 - (1) why?
 - (2) why not?
 - ii. **Correct her theology**
 - (1) When was she healed? Before or after her theology was correct
 - (2) Do we sometimes consider poor theology as the reason someone's prayers are not answered
 - iii. **Announce to community that she was healed** - reintroduce her to the community of believers
 - (1) Do we have trouble doing this after a sinner from amongst us repents?
 - iv. **Commend her for her faith:**
 - (1) where was she in self worth at this point
 - (a) 12 years of misery
 - (b) 12 years without community worship
 - (c) She was not to touch anything or anyone that was holy or going to the temple/synagogue

- (2) He commended her faith - praised something she had done. How long had it been since someone had done that?
 - (a) When we are God-like, Christ-like, are we more about right behavior, rules, correct theology or more about strengthening and encouraging others who are struggling with trials we little know?
- (3) **Witness to others:** (as listed in the paragraph)
 - (a) Mrs White in her discussion of this story in DA says: “**Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world.** We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be **most effectual** is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls. {DA 347.3}
- (4) Who was Christ with? (Jairus - the temple leader) Had he been one of those in the role of keeping her away from public contact?
 - (a) Did Jairus need this contact and revelation of healing as well as others?

(b) Jairus couldn't appreciate this at that time, (what parent could?) but later when his daughter was healed, could he appreciate someone else's daughter being healed?

(5) Celebration at healing and restoration of a church member to community.

(a) Christ said "Luke 15:7, 10 GNB In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent. (10) In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents."

(b) Three stories of something lost and found: Coin, Sheep, & Son. At the end of each of the lost & found stories Christ told there was a party. How many times have you staged a party for sinners who have come home to God? (Tony Campolo's story of a birthday party for prostitutes in Hawaii)

v. Read Matt 9:22 Matthew 9:22 GW "When Jesus turned and saw her he said, "**Cheer up**, daughter! Your faith has made you well." At that very moment the woman became well." "cheer up" - he wanted her to feel better physically, socially, spiritually and mentally. Do we have that effect on those around us on a daily basis? (Sometimes I am so stressed with my life, those around me cannot see much cheer, comfort or courage.)

4. Was anyone else in the crowd energized by touching Him? No. It wasn't magical fairy dust you got from His clothes.

a. Are clothes are holy?

b. The person who wears them is.

- c. We do (or should) treat things that belong to God differently (Church sanctuary, pulpit, etc, priestly robes, etc). Think of those in Old Testament who were disciplined for irreverence. But it is God who is the object of our trust, love and reverence for His holiness, not his clothes, burial shroud, nails, cross, etc.

5. Further along in the same chapter in the book “Desire of Ages” we read: “To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.” {DA 347.1}

6. **Monday’s Lesson: He “Laid Aside His Garments”**
 - a. Read the first paragraph “In the last few days. . .”
 - b. If we entered the upper room during the Last Supper when Jesus was washing the disciples feet, what would it look like?
 - i. Who was the best dressed in the room?
 - ii. Who was the best educated in the room?
 - iii. Who was the most out-spoken and verbal in the room?
 - iv. What did God look like in that room?
 - v. Do we look like that when we are interacting with our peers?

- vi. John 13:1 - 16 Verse 13 - He served them as a servant, even though he was their Lord & teacher.
 - vii. Will Christ look and act differently when he returns the second time?
- c. Why did Jesus act in the way that He did?
- i. Read John 13:1 from several translations
 - (1) He loved them to the end; very end; completely
 - ii. He loved his disciples.
 - (1) Define Love: To live/act in the behalf of another. It is an act of the will and intellect.
 - (2) Opposite of love:
 - (a) not hate
 - (b) Selfishness
 - (c) Be careful when using this definition. It is not the one found in any dictionary.
 - (3) Hebrews 10:24 “GNB Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. (25) Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.”
 - (a) Why do we go to church: it is for the benefit of those around us, not for our spiritual enrichment.
- d. Philippians 2:5-8 GW Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. (6) Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. (7) Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. (8) He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.

- (1) We are to be servants of others
- ii. 1 Corinthians 1:18 GW “The message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved.”
 - (1) Those who are still infected with the “survival of the fittest” virus cannot understand another way.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 GW **A person who isn't spiritual doesn't accept the teachings of God's Spirit. He thinks they're nonsense.** He can't understand them because a person must be spiritual to evaluate them. (15) Spiritual people evaluate everything but are subject to no one's evaluation. (16) "Who has known the mind of the Lord so that he can teach him?" However, we have the mind of Christ.
- iii. **Read the pink section at the bottom of the page of Monday's lesson:**
 - (1) That is possibly one of the reasons we were created as human beings with the capacity to create others and care for others in our own image.
 - (2) Sacrifice:
 - (a) Is a mother feeling like she is sacrificing herself when she care for her child?
 - (i) yes - no - maybe - sometimes
 - (ii) Remember we still have an infection, Christ is the antibiotic / cure.

7. Ordinance of Humility: initiated in the Upper Room
 - a. Is the ordinance an important thing?
 - i. If so, what is important about it?
 - ii. How are our rituals / ordinances different than those of the Israelites?
 - b. Compare with Isaiah 58:5, 6
 - i. These are the fasts that God wishes for:
 - (1) Relief of suffering
 - (2) Release those in bonds
 - (3) Help the widow (helpless)
 - (4) etc.
 - ii. What is the purpose of the rituals?
 - iii. Are they beneficial if we don't have love for our fellow man as evidenced by daily actions of humility and care for others?

8. Tuesday's Lesson: "Nor Rend His Clothes"

- a. Have you ever been tempted to tear your clothes over something someone said?
 - i. Why or why not?
- b. Discuss why this was such a big deal for Caiaphas.
- c. We are not to "take the Lord's name in vain."
 - i. What does it mean to be a Christian?
 - ii. What would be modern equivalents to the prohibition of tearing a priest's clothes?
 - (1) Does it only apply to the clergy?
 - (2) What does being a priest in the New Testament church imply?
 - (3) If we are to represent Christ to the world, what cultural activities will mislead the world about what Christ / God is really like?

9. Wednesday's Lesson: Garments of Mockery
 - a. I haven't always liked to look at the crucifixion and trial scenes. They are too gory.
 - i. If, like some, you think that Christ had to suffer for your individual acts of sin, then his suffering becomes more important, emphasized. (The Passion of the Cross movie and all the explanations around its portrayal.)
 - ii. Others have read Psalms 22 and have come to the conclusion that Christ was performing a scripted drama. He did not have any choices. He was playing a role.
 - b. Who was being mocked?
 - c. Look both at Monday's lesson and combine with Wednesday's lesson:
 - i. Read the second paragraph on Monday's lesson: "As if the disciples . . ."
(1) It says "Jesus had every right to be disgusted."
 - ii. Read the first paragraph on Wednesday's lesson: "Jesus was stripped and garbed. . ."
 - iii. Did Christ have any "rights" at the time of his trial or did He just have to take it since it was prophesied to be that way?
 - d. In America we talk about "rights." Are we suppose to stand up for our rights?
 - i. For the rights of others?
 - ii. When?

- e. Read the Pink box at the bottom of Wednesday's lesson: "How do you respond. . . ."
 - i. What does it mean to be treated unfairly?
 - (1) What is fair?
 - (2) Is not this world an unfair place?
 - ii. Does it make a difference if it is you or someone else who is being mistreated?
 - (1) Your family member?
 - (2) Your child?
 - (3) Your coworker?
 - iii. When is it appropriate to demand fair treatment?
 - iv. Was Christ active or passive during His trial?
 - (1) Was he working to save Pilate, the priests, the soldiers?
 - (2) Was he paying attention to what was going on or in his own little world trying to survive?
 - (a) Why didn't he drink the wine/vinegar combo that was offered to Him on the cross?
 - (3) Was He in control of the situation?
 - (a) Was he manipulating the situation?
 - (b) Was he in control of Himself?
 - (c) The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) is self control.
 - (d) Did Christ ever give up His self control to the Father?
 - (i) To the situation
 - (ii) To the predictions about Him in the scriptures.
- f. Read the last paragraph "And yet,"
 - i. "At least in part"
 - (1) What was the other part?

10. **Thursday's Lesson: "They Parted My Garments"**

11. Naked on the cross: Teacher's quarterly notes - "Christ, as a man, wore clothing. Lack of clothing indicated a lower station, or humiliation, to which He submitted on our behalf. Although He was our Creator and King of the universe, He humbly bore the mocking and the insults of the high priest and the pagan soldiers."

- a. We can suffer humiliation for Christ's sake - but when is that?
 - i. Few have a similar experience to that of the three Hebrews & Nebuchadnezzar in which worship of God vs worship of another god is so clearly defined.

12. **Friday's Lesson: Discussion Questions**

- a. Question #3: ". . . . Does this ignorance of what they were doing in any way excuse their actions? Why should they be punished for something they did without knowing exactly what it was? Discuss.
- b. Who will punish them?
- c. How will they be punished?
- d. Does it make a difference to the person who accidentally ingests poison, if they know what kind of poison it is? Does poison act any differently if you don't know you are ingesting it, if you are ignorant of its presence?
 - i. Will someone need to punish them to make them pay for their wrong action? Does God need to send an angel from heaven to make sure that the poison ingested does what exactly what its chemical composition should do?

- e. Will ignorance of the direction I am traveling make it any more likely that I will arrive at where I want to go? Or that I will like the destination any better when I arrive at the wrong one?
 - i. Will I be “punished” for being at the wrong place?
 - ii. Will I be “rewarded”?

Fundamentals of Christian Education: pp 364 “The disciples of Christ are not called upon to magnify men, but to magnify God, the source of all wisdom. Let educators give the Holy Spirit room to do its work upon human hearts. The greatest Teacher is represented in our midst by His Holy Spirit. However you may study, however you may reach higher and still higher, although you occupy every moment of your probationary time in the pursuit of knowledge, you will not become complete. When time is over, you would have to ask yourself the question, "What good have I done to those who are in midnight darkness? To whom have I communicated the knowledge of God, or even the knowledge of those things for which I have spent so much time and money?" It will soon be said in heaven, "It is done." "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." When this fiat is spoken, every (pg 364) case will have been decided.”

Life Sketches pp 93 “We are not called upon to enter into controversy with those who hold false theories. Controversy is unprofitable. Christ never entered into it. "It is written" is the weapon used by the world's Redeemer. Let us keep close to the World. Let us allow the Lord Jesus and His messengers to testify. We know that their testimony is true.” {LS 93.1}

Mind, Character, and Personality Vol 1 pp 344 “No One to Live an Aimless Life.--Every soul is to minister. He is to use every physical, moral and mental power--through sanctification of the Spirit--that he

may be a laborer together with God. All are bound to devote themselves actively and unreservedly to God's (pg 345) service. They are to cooperate with Jesus Christ in the great work of helping others. Christ died for every man. He has ransomed every man by giving His life on the cross. This He did that man might no longer live an aimless, selfish life but that he might live unto Jesus Christ, who died for his salvation. All are not called upon to enter the ministry, but nevertheless, they are to minister. It is an insult to the Holy Spirit of God for any man to choose a life of self-serving.--Lt 10, 1897." (4BC 1159.) {1MCP 344.5}

Selected Messages, Book 1 pp394 "The Lord would have His people sound in the faith-- not ignorant of the great salvation so abundantly provided for them. They are not to look forward, thinking (pg 395) that at some future time a great work is to be done for them; for the **work is now complete**. *The believer is not called upon to make his peace with God; he never has nor ever can do this. He is to accept Christ as his peace, for with Christ is God and peace.* Christ made an end of sin, bearing its heavy curse in His own body on the tree, and He hath taken away the curse from all those who believe in Him as a personal Saviour. He makes an end of the controlling power of sin in the heart, and the life and character of the believer testify to the genuine character of the grace of Christ. To those that ask Him, Jesus imparts the Holy Spirit; for it is necessary that every believer should be delivered from pollution, as well as from the curse and condemnation of the law. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the truth, the believer becomes fitted for the courts of heaven; for Christ works within us, and His righteousness is upon us. Without this no soul will be entitled to heaven. We would not enjoy heaven unless qualified for its holy atmosphere by the influence of the Spirit and the righteousness of Christ. {1SM 394.3}

In order to be candidates for heaven we must meet the requirement of the law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" (Luke 10:27). We can do this only as we grasp by faith the righteousness of Christ. By beholding Jesus

we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus. Thus Christ makes an end of the curse of sin, and sets the believing soul free from its action and effect. {1SM 395.1}

Christ alone is able to do this, for "in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being (pg 396) tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:17, 18).

Reconciliation means that every barrier between the soul and God is removed, and that the sinner realizes what the pardoning love of God means. By reason of the sacrifice made by Christ for fallen men, God can justly pardon the transgressor who accepts the merits of Christ. Christ was the channel through which the mercy, love, and righteousness might flow from the heart of God to the heart of the sinner. "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)."

Selected Messages, Book 2 "You can help us, my brother, in many ways. But I am commissioned of the Lord to say to you that you are not to be self-centered. Take heed how you hear, how you understand, and how you appropriate the Word of God. The Lord will bless you in drawing in even lines with your brethren. Those whom He has sent forth to proclaim the third angel's message have been working in unison with the heavenly intelligences. The Lord does not lay upon you a burden to proclaim a message that will bring discord into the ranks of believers. I repeat, He is not leading anyone by His Holy Spirit to frame a theory that will unsettle faith in the solemn messages He has given His people to bear to our world. {2SM 115.1}"