



2020 3Q Making Friends for God: Lesson 8 Ministering Like Jesus

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

I received this email this week:

To Dr Jennings and the entire class and all of the online people, without this class me and my spouse would truly be lost and stuck in an impossible place with God constructs that were ruining our lives.

You happily sent us a case of the Remedy about 3 years ago and we gave them out to others who we knew are stuck believing in penal substitution god. It's not an exaggeration to say that your Bible class has been a life saver..

For all the reasons that you teach, so many in our lives are immovable from their positions, (parents, other friends and family). It's hard, even depressing, to see everyone reaching out for comfort from all the wrong sources.

The last few months it's been especially hard for us as we struggle to make God our first priority, you've mentioned several things that we are still dealing with and sadly I know we've come up short.

But God has blessed us with a child and we have never been so happy (most of the time), we hope to be the best parents one could have. We also wanted others in the class to know that they are very much appreciated, Russel, Wendel, Linda and all the rest, you are in the prayers from online participants and thank you for being great!!

Read memory verse: "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36 NKJV).

Why were they like sheep without a shepherd? Didn't they have the Bible at the synagogues? Didn't they have the ceremonial system? Didn't they have the Sabbath? Didn't they have the priesthood? Why were they like sheep without a shepherd?

Because they didn't have the truth about God and His design law for life. Why didn't they have this truth, isn't it in Scripture? Isn't it revealed in the little drama of the ceremonial system? Doesn't the Sabbath declare God's as Creator and doesn't creation operate upon design law—so why were the like sheep without a shepherd?



Because Satan is a liar and Satan has been lying about God's character and God's law since the beginning and the enemy's lies have been so effective that all of these tools to reveal truth about God have been misunderstood and misapplied. The people needed God Himself to come and reveal the truth.

Here is a short section from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. [What do you think of when you think of God's glory—fire, lightning, or love?] "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth **the great principle which is the law of life for the universe.** [What does the law of life mean? And what is it? The law of love, design law that originates in God's character and emanates from Him, and is perfectly lived out in Jesus] All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: **through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all;** [this isn't just beautiful prose this is reality, the life-energy from God flows out to all living things from God] through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus **through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.**

In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. [What is sin? Is it rule breaking, or breaking the very protocol of love that life is built upon? If sin is breaking the protocol for life, what is the result of sin? Death, and if one is out of harmony with life, what is needed to save a person in sin? The restoration of the law of life within them. Do you see how the penal legal lie obstructs God's healing plan?] Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. **He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself.** [Gain control of heavenly beings—wow, how? Lies believed break the circle of love and trust, incite fear and selfishness. Do we see this in society today—lies gaining control of people? Notice the very next words.] **Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men.** [Satan lied about God in heaven; he lied about God in Eden and he continues to lie about God through his agencies on earth including the false doctrines in Christianity rooted in the lie that God's law functions like human law and thus God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering] **He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness.** [Do you believe a being to be good if you simultaneously believe that being will torture and kill you if he is not paid the proper price not to? Do you see the evil of penal substitution theology?] **Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving.** [What is justice? Doing what is right and just, as defined by what? The law, so if we can get beings to accept the lie that God's law is like human law, imposed rules, then what does justice look like? It giving proper punishments to rule-breakers. And from who metes out the punishment? So, Satan gets beings to see God as severe and unforgiving by lying about God's law. But when we worship God as Creator and understand



His laws are design laws, then we realize justice is doing what is right, which is seeking to heal and save by restoring sinners to harmony with His design for life; but it is also right and just to leave people free not to cooperate with God for healing and sadly reap what their persistent choice causes—eternal death] Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.

The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. [What caused the darkness in this world? Lies about God, then what is needed to lift the darkness? The truth about God. How can this be achieved? Can the lies and distrust of God be removed by threatening to kill all who don't accept heaven's view of things? Never, notice what comes next in the quote] **This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened.** [Again do you see how corrupt Christianity has become by accepting the lie that God's law works like human law and justice is to inflict punishments upon rule breakers. In other words, to believe sin can be overcome by force, which leads Christians to believe it is righteous to use force either through government or through riots or wars to achieve their goals.] To know God is to love Him; **His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do.** Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. **Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings."** Malachi 4:2. DA 22.1

Who is the Sun of Righteousness? Jesus, and what does it mean that he must rise with healing in his wings? This is a quote from Malachi 4:2, let's read that prophecy together Malachi 4:1-6 NIV84:

Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty. "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers;

The Hebrew translated wings doesn't mean just wings of a bird that cause flight, but also wings like the wings of a building, the portions that extend out from the center—and what extends out from the Sun? Beams of light—so the Sun of Righteousness arises with healing in the beams of light extending out from Him.

This is talking about the second coming of Christ. It is telling us that all the sinners who refuse healing will be annihilated, die and be no more, be turned back to dust. But those of us who trust Jesus don't



have to worry because we will be saved. His transforming and healing truth and love will rise on us like the sun, rising with healing in its rays.

Think about this—what is being taught?

What caused the loyal angels and Adam and Eve to become disloyal to God? Lies about God. What is the truth metaphorically likened to? Light, truth is light, lies believed cause darkness.

What has Satan's lies done to the world? Covered it in darkness—darkness covers the people a gross darkness the people.

But before Jesus returns, He, the Sun of Righteousness, rises with healing in His rays.

Imagine you are in a dark cave for days and days with no light and you are brought out immediately into the bright sunlight, what is that like? But what happens if you are brought out before dawn and watch the sun rise?

The Sun of Righteousness, Jesus, at this time in human history is rising with truth, ever increasing amounts of truth, the truth about God's character, the truth about God's law as design law, the truth about God's methods, and those who love Him embrace the truth and are transformed by the application of the truth in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. Thus, when Jesus appears in His full unveiled glory, they are ready to be in His presence. Notice, they are being healed by this process.

This is the same as saying they are being cleansed, which is the exact same truth taught in the cleansing of the sanctuary message, that God cleanses His people of sin so they are ready to meet Him. For the Scripture says that when He returns we shall see Him as He is for we shall be like Him (1John 3:2).

But for those who don't love the truth, who cling to lies, rather than being healed, they are hardened in lies and selfishness and when they are exposed to the full unveiled glory of God their unhealed condition causes them torment of mind, heart, soul until they are consumed with guilt, shame, fear and choose not to live in such a kingdom of infinite truth and love; they voluntarily surrender their lives back to God, and are turned back to dust.

But before this happens the prophet Elijah must come. Why? Because, just as Elijah called the people to choose between the true God and the false god, so too a message like that is to go to the world. And people today must choose between the true Creator God or the false Baal god. And who was Baal?

Baal was the son of El (i.e., El-ohim or El-Shaddai). He was the god of weather and was often called "Almighty" and "Lord of the Earth." Baal was the god who brought rain, thunder, lightning, who fertilized the earth, controlled the sun, and brought the harvest. Baal fought the great serpent leviathan,



as well as battled against Mot, the god of death. And most amazing of all, it was taught that Baal died in his battle with Mot and was resurrected to bring life to earth.¹

So what was the problem with worshiping a god who was the son of El, who controlled the weather, who brought rain, sunshine, and fertility, who blessed with a full harvest, who warred against the great serpent and death, who died and was resurrected to bring life to the earth? What was wrong with this god? What was Elijah opposing? What made Baal worship false?

Here is what one Christian writer identifies as the central distortion in Baal worship:

“Determined to keep the people in deception, the priests of Baal continue to offer sacrifices to their gods and to call upon them night and day to refresh the earth. **With costly offerings the priests attempt to appease the anger of their gods** ...” (Prophets and Kings 124)

The Bible confirms this:

“So the prophets prayed louder and cut themselves with knives and daggers, **according to their custom**, until blood flowed” (1 Kings 18:28).

So putting all of this together and what does Malachi’s prophecy tell us? That Jesus is going to rise at the end of time with ever-increasing truth about God to lighten those who have eyes to see, and that truth will be the Elijah message, the truth about God as Creator and His law as design law that exposes Baal worship as false, particularly the lie that God’s law functions like human law and God requires some legal payment to appease or assuage His wrath. This is the same as the three angels’ messages.

To give this message is what it means to give the message of Jesus, to give the testimony of Jesus—to bring people back under the care of their heavenly Shepherd.

Read first paragraph, “Jesus genuinely...” There is no doubt Jesus loved people and always sought to pour God’s love into their lives.

Who decided what Jesus gave to people? Did Jesus always give what people wanted? Why not? Does love give what people want or what is actually best for them?

Did Jesus ever leave people with needs that He did not meet? When and why?

¹ Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. (1996). *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed.) (108).

Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. Carthage, a history, Serge Lancel, p194

Miller, Patrick (2000), *Israelite Religion and Biblical Theology: Collected Essays*, Continuum International Publishing Group, p. 32. [ISBN 184127142X](#)

Moscati, Sabatino (2001). *The Phoenicians*, Tauris, p. 132. [ISBN 1850435332](#)

Walbank, Frank William (1979). *A Historical Commentary on Polybius*, Volume 2, Clarendon Press, p. 47

Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary (1976) [ISBN 0-310-23560-X](#).



- Nazareth they didn't believe in Him
- The curiosity of Herod who wanted to see miracles
- The people when they wanted to have more food
- What about when Jesus was tired and need to rest or spend time with His Father? Was Jesus being selfish to retire from the needy for rest and personal time with His Father? Is there a lesson in this for us?

What limits what God does in people's lives? Isn't it the condition of the people and the circumstances they are in?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Jesus always looked for the good in others..." No doubt again that Jesus loves us all and seeks to save sinners. But absolutist statements trigger my mind to think, is this true? Is it true that Jesus "always" looked for the good in people? If so, how, what does it mean?

What about Matthew 23 was Jesus looking at the good?

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to....You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?" (vv 14, 33 NIV84)

Was Jesus looking at the good in them? No, He wasn't looking at the good *in* them, but **He was looking out for the good of them** and others.

Understanding design law, Jesus was **diagnosing** their condition and revealing that diagnosis to them with evidence. This is the presentation of the truth, as a final attempt to bring conviction for their salvation. Jesus wasn't seeking to condemn them but to save them, thus Jesus was seeking their good, by exposing to them their terminal state, their false religion based on imposed law, giving them the opportunity to reject the lies and embrace the truth and be saved. I believe His voice was filled with heartache, compassion and concern for them—not hostility.

Jesus saw the good—the health of character—that they could experience if they would allow Him to heal them. Like a doctor can see past the disease to how well a person can be if they take the treatment. But in this case Jesus was sad because they were sick and clung to a false remedy of their own devising and rejected the actual cure and they didn't even know it.



From *The Remedy* Matthew 23:14-39:

"Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! Your false teachings obstruct people from being healed and entering God's kingdom of love. You certainly are not healed and do not enter into salvation, but worse still, you actively work to prevent others, who want to be saved, from being healed.

¹⁴ Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You con widows from their homes, yet you make public displays of praying long prayers. Unhealed you choose to remain! Your suffering will be most severe.

¹⁵ "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You go around the world trying to convert one person, and when you do, you indoctrinate them so deeply into your false penal system that they become twice as much the child of lies and selfishness as you are.

¹⁶ "Misery is yours, you irrational and unthinking teachers! Unbelievably, you say: 'If anyone swears by the temple, it doesn't count; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, then they are bound by the oath.'¹⁷ You make no sense at all! Think about it: Which is truly most important—the gold, or the temple that makes the gold holy?¹⁸ Another of your sayings is: 'If anyone swears by the altar, it doesn't count; but if anyone swears by the gift on the altar then they are bound by the oath.'¹⁹ You don't understand the simplest truths! Think about it: Which is truly most important—the gift, or the altar that makes the gift holy?²⁰ Don't you get it? The one who swears by the altar swears by it and everything on it.²¹ And whoever swears by the temple, swears by it and by the One whose dwelling place it is.²² And oaths sworn before heaven are promises made before God's throne; and the One who sits on it knows the true intent of the heart.

²³ "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You keep rules, such as proudly paying a pre-tax tithe and even giving a tenth of the herbs in your garden, but you fail to do what actually matters—to live in harmony with God's Law, which is his design for life. You fail to 'do what is right because it is right.' You are not merciful but judgmental and critical, and you cannot be trusted to protect those struggling with sin. You should have lived lives of love for others, without neglecting the simple instructions of God.²⁴ You are truly irrational and unthinking teachers! You are so focused on keeping the rules — such as dietary laws — that you fail to understand that their purpose is to promote health. You're so confused that you actually think it would be a virtue to die of starvation rather than eat something not on the 'approved' list.

²⁵ "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You work so hard to make yourselves look good on the outside, but the inside—the heart—is full of selfishness, arrogance, and greed.²⁶ You truly don't understand anything about God's kingdom! The mind, the character, the heart — they all must be cleansed first, and then the outside will also be clean.



²⁷ "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You are like highly polished burial vaults: they look beautiful on the outside, but inside are nothing but the bones of the dead, and everything that defiles.²⁸ You are just like that. On the outside you appear to people as good and righteous, but on the inside you are full of lies, selfishness, and evil. You are great counterfeits!

²⁹ "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You go to great lengths to give praise and honor to God's spokespersons and church leaders of the past.³⁰ You say, 'If we would have lived back then, we would never have rejected God's spokespersons or joined those who killed them.'³¹ By such claims you condemn yourselves, because you acknowledge such actions are wrong, yet by your actions today you reveal you are the true descendants of those who murdered God's spokespersons. You're just like them³² and your sins pile on top of the sins of your forefathers!

³³ "You slippery serpents! You brood of venomous vipers! You think you can cure yourselves with your own snake oil?³⁴ It's because of your false remedy — your penal legal trickery — that I am sending my spokespersons, instructors and Bible scholars, some of whom you will attack, kill, and crucify; others you will beat—some physically, some verbally—right in church, running them out of town with beatings and the most vicious gossip.³⁵ The pure and holy lives that have been sacrificed through history — from Abel, all the way through to Zechariah the son of Berekiah, who was murdered right in church, at the altar — testify the truth to you.³⁶ But the sad truth is that this generation will reject all this evidence.

³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you sick and hard-hearted people who have rejected the Remedy, killed God's spokespersons, and stoned those sent to you with the cure! How my heart has longed to pull you to safety, like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me.³⁸ Look around: I leave your house to you abandoned without Remedy, and infected without cure.³⁹ For I tell you plainly, when you see me next, you will say: 'He is the One sent by God to reveal God's true character and provide the Remedy.'"

Read second paragraph, "The scribes'..." How many do this today, live in fear of something in the environment contaminating them. Perhaps being afraid of someone at church starting up a conversation that is not a Sabbath topic, talking about a ball game or the latest news and afraid that to discuss such things would breaking the Sabbath. So they come in to church late and leave early to ensure they don't interact with anyone that would contaminate them with sin.

The lesson points out that Jesus used the metaphor of salt for His followers, what lessons do we learn from this?

Matthew 5:13 from *The Remedy*: "You are like salt to humanity: preserving the knowledge of God, providing the flavor of heaven, and increasing the thirst for God."

Are we like this—do we preserve the knowledge of God, give people a taste of heavenly truth and love and inspire them to thirst for God?



The lesson points out that we are to be light to the world and that the light doesn't avoid darkness it shines into the darkness.

How do we shine the light of God's truth and love into the darkness of this world? And how can Satan trick people to exchange light for darkness?

- Light is always truth, love and freedom, i.e. the methods of God.
- Darkness is always lies, selfishness and coercions, i.e. the methods of Satan.

Satan gets good people to exchange the light for darkness by exchanging any of the elements of God for the elements of Satan.

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that (as quoted in Strength to Love, 1963).

Can we see movements afoot in the world today that are seeking to trap good people into using Satan's methods to achieve their goals?

The following is from an interview entitled with Ellen G. White on November 20, 1895 entitled "Words of Caution Regarding Sunday Labor, the Colored People, and the Way to Oppose Error," she said:

This is God's world, and wicked men are simply permitted to be in it. This earth was deeded to Abraham and his children, and we will come into possession of it before long. [Who are Abraham's children? All those who have the faith like Abraham, who have been circumcised in heart are considered children of Abraham. Remember he is the father of many nations. This is not about genetics, but about who has partaken of Jesus by faith and been renewed in heart like Abraham.] We must not feel that we will receive any help from those around us, but we must be where we can help them. 5MR 67.1 [We don't look for humans who are not on God's team to help us, i.e. human governments or political movements, we look to where we can help those who don't know Jesus to come to know God and God's methods]

When you begin to work with parliaments, that sets the devil to work, and if he cannot make the work hard for us, who can? [If we seek human governments to work with us in the advancement of God's kingdom we set the devil to work. We corrupt the gospel and the church by ultimately bringing in the methods of the world—imperialism and coercion into the work. This corrupts the minds and hearts of people and obstructs the kingdom of God.] Do not let your work be known any more than necessary. **Let the truth work.** [How does the truth work? We present evidence and truth and leave people free and the truth exposes lies and transform hearts and minds.] **Our best course is not to get up an exemption.** [Meaning, not to seek governmental to give us legal exemption for our ministry or activity. Just go about living out



God's kingdom, ministering and loving others. Don't seek to get governments to give permits or laws supporting your work.] God has given light that the least said about these things the better. **The devil and all his hosts are working to destroy God's law, and when you begin to work on those lines he will stir up men to believe that we do not regard their laws, nor obey their decrees.** [When we seek to promote God's law by seeking governmental involvement we will stir up the devil and ungodly men to oppose us by passing their laws.]

We are not to reveal all our purposes and plans to men. **Satan is working in an underhanded way**, and he will continue so to work. **He will not work openly and above board. His power is to work upon human minds to make a start, to set a powerful movement on foot before the people's minds are prepared for it.** [Do we see this happening today? Underhanded methods, dishonest methods that are not above board, claiming one thing but doing another, designed to work upon human minds to set powerful movements into motion?]

Question: Can we not get the truth before the minds of the members of parliament in a quiet way, and by furnishing them reading?

From the light that has been given me, we should fear that these men and rulers will take their position against the work and then they will act like the devil; [We should not expect the political leaders on either side to act like Jesus, they will act like the devil. Why? Because the devil's methods are imposed law with coercion and that is the only way human governments work. So no matter how righteous the goal, when the church seeks to get the government to advance it, the methods will be those of the devil. The only righteous (God ordained) purpose of human governments is to restrain evil, there is no God ordained place for human governments to advance righteousness because righteousness is a matter of the heart and human governments have no role there.] but every advantage should be taken to get acquainted with these men; not in a way to produce anything like prejudice. **We must appear to them as trying to help others, working on the line of the Christian help work.** [Notice, we should show the politicians that we have no interest in politics, we have interest in them as people, we have interest to help people through ministering to them, not through changing the government.] As they see the good work we do on these lines, their prejudice will be removed in a large measure, and their hearts will be open for more. [And when their hearts are open for more what should we present, what should we share?] **Then we should not present the Sabbath, but let us present Christ.** [Not the false Christ presented in the penal legal lie, but the true Christ who reveals the character of God and His kingdom of love.] What if they should begin to oppose you and say, **Oh, that's a Seventh-day Adventist?—Lift Christ up higher and still higher.** It means a great deal to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 5MR 67.5 [And how did Jesus work? Did Jesus work politically to change government, or did Jesus work to help people?]

The world is not to be condemned until after they have the light. **We must tell them the simple story of conversion.** [The light of what? The light of God's kingdom of love, His design law, the testimony of Jesus, calling people to the eternal gospel and the worship of Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water. We are calling people out of



Babylon, the confusing system of imposed law to worship our Creator whose laws is design law. Can we convert people through legislation, through elections, through governmental action? How are people converted, what is that simple story of conversion?] The people are to be pitied, and we want to soften them so that the Spirit of the Lord can mold them. **They have been receiving false ideas. If we come close to them, and show them the love of Christ, we can do much more for them....** [The core falsehood is that God's law works like human law, which leads to the lie that we can achieve a righteous society with the right politicians, laws, judges and policies]

Question: Would it not be as well for us to present principles rather than dwell upon what the governments will do?

We have nothing to do with the government's actions. [Wait, didn't she live in a democracy, a representative government? Aren't we supposed to use our political voice to advance the agenda of God? NO! It always corrupts because all human governments are beastly and use the methods of coercion. We are not to do this. We are to stand up for truth, to oppose evil, to speak out against abuses—but with the focus on changing the hearts of people, to bring them to conversion, not to pass laws that force people to act like we want with hearts that are unconverted.] It is our duty to obey God, and when they arrest you, take no thought what you shall do. **What you are to do is to follow Christ step by step.** We need not commence weeks beforehand to examine the question and plan out what we will do when they do so and so, neither what we are to say. **Study the truth,** and the Spirit of the Lord will bring to your remembrance what you shall say...

If we should let loose of Jesus and take up our own spirit, it may take months, or perhaps years to counteract that one wrong move. [What does the spirit of self do? What does Jesus lead us to do?] **Unless many of us are converted and become as little children, we shall never see the kingdom of God...** [Was she speaking to people who were not members of the church? No, she was speaking to people who were members of the church, yet refers to them as unconverted, why? Because it is about heart change from the methods of the world, from fear, selfishness, imperialism, coercion, to the methods of God, truth, love, freedom, design law—trust in God so that we don't try and force our own way. She was acknowledging that the wheat and tares grow together in the church and many of the church members need true conversion.]

In cases where we are brought before the courts, we are to give up our rights unless it brings us in collision with God. It is not our rights we are pleading for, but God's right to our service. [Wow, what did you hear? Is the devil trapping millions of Christians with movements right now focused on claiming their legal rights and then seeking to gain political power to force their way?]

Instead of resisting the penalties imposed unjustly upon us, it would be better to take heed to the Saviour's words:- “When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”—Manuscript 22a, 1895, pp. 4-6. (“Words of Caution Regarding Sunday



Labor, the Colored People, and the Way to Oppose Error,” Interview, November 20, 1895.)
5MR 67-69

Do you realize there are powerful movements at work in Christianity that would call this perspective evil. These theological movements teach Jesus’ life was necessary to reveal the goodness and love of God to win us to trust in God, but Jesus’ suffering and death was not necessary for our salvation. In fact, these theologies teach that the crucifixion of Christ was merely the result of evil people rejecting God’s love and His death has no benefit for our salvation. Further, this false theology teaches that to promote the sacrifice of Christ on the cross as a virtue, as having salvation value, is a means to exploit the poor and colored people of the world by teaching them to suffer, to sacrifice. This false theology teaches that we should not look to the Cross of Christ and trust God in our suffering, but should rise up to throw off the oppressor. Thus, this theology teaches the death of Christ was not necessary for salvation and that such ideas are taught by the powerholders as a way to exploit the masses.

What do you say about such views?

That they have a fundamental misunderstanding of reality. They are reacting to the lie that God’s law works like human law. They misunderstand the nature of sin, the law of God, the methods of God and the purpose of Jesus’ mission on earth. They don’t realize that it wasn’t possible for Jesus to procure the remedy to save humanity without the cross—that it was at the cross that God’s law of love destroyed the law of sin and death, and in the person of Jesus cured the sin condition in humanity. That is where Jesus became our Remedy, our source of salvation (Heb 5:8,9). Thus, this theology, which appeals to modern political movements, is another subtle trap of Satan to try and remove the sacrifice of Christ as central to our salvation.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “Jesus’ statement...” How many Sabbaths had the centurion kept? Did he eat a kosher diet? Sacrifice at Temple? Pay a regular tithe?

Then how could he be close to God’s kingdom? Did the religious leaders like this perspective that Jesus was revealing? Why not? What about today?

What if we told people who trusted Jesus, lived lives of loving service to others, but didn’t go to church on Sabbath, didn’t pay tithe, didn’t eat a vegetarian diet, had wine twice a week with dinner, that they had more faith than our pastor or conference president?

What is the difference between a compliment and flattery?

Consider this historic quote from the book *Eternity Past* writing about the war between God and Satan:



God could employ only such means as were consistent with truth and righteousness. **Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit.** It was therefore necessary to demonstrate before the inhabitants of heaven and all the world that God's government is just, His law perfect. Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe. The true character of the usurper must be understood by all. He must have time to manifest himself by his wicked works. EP 14.2

What is the difference between a compliment and flattery?

- A compliment is sincere praise or commendation based on fact and reality intended to affirm and validate
- Flattery is insincere praise based not based on fact and intended to mislead, entice or deceive

Why must time be given for Satan to manifest his character and methods? Why couldn't God just tell everyone that Satan was wrong?

Can lies be effectively removed from people's minds with declarations alone, or does evidence have to be revealed?

Since God's laws are design laws, deviations from His designs laws will always reveal, over time, destruction, pain, suffering and death. Only in harmony with God and His laws is their health, happiness and life.

TUESDAY

The lesson points out that Jesus spent much of His ministry healing people, why? What is revealed by healing? Why kind of law does health operate upon?

Is there a judicial process in healing people?

Can people live in health while violating the laws of health? Miracles of God can certainly give immediate physical healing to any physical ailment, but will health be retained if a person persists in violating the laws of health?

Do you see why Jesus after healing often instructed to live better lives or to sin no more?

What lesson does this teach about salvation?

Is our salvation exclusively and only God's responsibility? What is our responsibility and what is God's?

What about in healing our relationships? Does God have a role? Do we have a role? If we do everything perfectly in harmony with God's laws, designs, methods, instructions, will that guarantee that we have healthy relationships? Why not? Because healthy relationship require healthy people—



and we can only choose health for ourselves, if the other person is unhealthy then the relationship will be unhealthy.

The lesson points out that in some healings Jesus linked healing from sickness with forgiveness for sin—why?

What did the people in Christ's day believe about the cause of sickness? They believed a lie that all sickness was a result of sin, that is why the disciples asked who sinned the man or his parents that he was born blind.

So, when Jesus met people with serious sickness, and they also had terrible guilt from believing that their sickness was punishment by God for their sin. Or, in the case of the paralytic, perhaps his sickness was a result of sin, Jesus wanted to do more than free their bodies of illness, He wanted to free their minds from guilt and shame and reconcile them to God. So, He linked the healing with forgiveness when necessary.

And how did the religious leaders respond to Jesus healing the sick, whether He actually stated their sins were forgiven or not? They were not happy, why? Because in their mind the people were being punished by God for sin, and Jesus was overruling what they believed were God's just punishments for sin.

Isn't it interesting, rather than examining their own beliefs about reality, considering whether they were misunderstanding the nature of sin, God's character and methods, instead they judged Jesus to be in error and condemned Him as working for Satan in performing miracles?

Do we see any such distortions in the way people deal with truth today?

WEDNESDAY

Read bottom green section, "Is it possible to live the abundant life..." Fanny Crosby the song writer who wrote many famous hymns such as:

- "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"--1875,
- "Blessed Assurance"--1873,
- "He Hideth My Soul"--1890,
- "More Like Jesus"
- "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home (Jesus is Calling)"--1883,
- "Near the Cross"--1869,
- "Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, Our Blessed Redeemer!"--1869,
- "Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!"--1882,
- "Rescue the Perishing"--1869,
- "Safe in the Arms of Jesus"--1868,
- "Take the World, But Give Me Jesus"--1879,



- "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"--1880,
- "To God Be the Glory"--1875,

She was blind from infancy and later in life, wrote:

It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.

If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour.

Can we have the abundant life with sickness, poverty, infirmity?

What is it that Jesus promises us today?

What happened to all the people Jesus healed of physical illness 2000 years ago?

Is God's primary concern that we live an extra 50 years here on earth? What is God's primary concern? That we receive eternal life, that we are reconciled to Him.

THURSDAY

Read the third paragraph, "The Old Testament..." I love, this, so well said, yes, salvation is healing.

What other Bible references reveal this reality?

- circumcision of the heart
- remove heart of stone
- rebirth
- mind of Christ
- renewal
- cleansing
- adoption—but by what means? Legal declaration? No, by reaching us with His love so that we *adopt* His truth and love and are transformed into unity with Him. This is how we become part of God's family.
- Ransom—what does a ransom do? It frees from bondage, and what holds us in bondage? The lies of Satan we believe and our own carnal natures. Then what is the price to free us? The truth that destroys the lies and wins us to trust and a new nature—which is applied where? In us, so again the reality is our healing and transformation and restoration back to unity with God and His design for life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 1 resource is *God Is Love, Children's Book*.

Saturday, October 3, 2020! Come and Reason will be presenting a live in-person event at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga TN! **Healing the Mind and Transforming the Character in a Broken World** is one-day event and will be packed with presentations by Timothy R. Jennings, Katie McPherson, Ben Bost and Kent Delhousaye. Join us to learn principles and strategies to heal the mind and heart from fear and habits that overrun our lives You'll want to book your spot soon before the event is sold out-- lunch is included in this great price! Click [here](#) for more information.

October 9-10, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

November 6-7, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>