

## w170823

Welcoming in the stranger — the Matthew 25 pledge in action

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

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### The Bible:

1. Ruth 1:1-12 (to .), 1-16, 18, 19 (to .)

- 1 NOW it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.
- 2 And the name of the man *was* Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.
- 3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.
- 4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.
- 5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.
- 6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.
- 7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.
- 8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.
- 9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each *of you* in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.
- 10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.
- 11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are* there yet *any more* sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?
- 12 Turn again, my daughters, go *your way*; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, *if* I should have an husband also to-night, and should also bear sons;
- 13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.
- 14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.
- 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

- 16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God:
- 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.
- 19 ¶ So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem.

## 2. Ruth 2:1 Naomi - 12

- 1 AND Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name *was* Boaz.

## 3. Deut 10:11 the Lord - 15, 17-22

- 11 And the LORD said unto me, Arise, take *thy* journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give unto them.
- 17 For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:
- 18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.
- 19 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.
- 20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.
- 21 He *is* thy praise, and he *is* thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.
- 22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

## 4. Matt 25:31, 34-40

- 31 ¶ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
- 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
- 35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
- 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
- 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?
- 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

- 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?  
 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you,  
 Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye  
 have done *it* unto me.

### ***Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy***

#### 1. 174:9

- 9 The footsteps of thought, rising above material stand-  
 points, are slow, and portend a long night to the traveller;  
 but the angels of His presence — the spiritual  
 12 intuitions that tell us when “the night is far  
 spent, the day is at hand” — are our guardians in the  
 gloom. Whoever opens the way in Christian Science is  
 15 a pilgrim and stranger, marking out the path for gen-  
 erations yet unborn.

Rise of thought

#### 2. 142:4-16

- Anciently the followers of Christ, or Truth, measured  
 Christianity by its power over sickness, sin, and death;  
 6 but modern religions generally omit all but one  
 of these powers, — the power over sin. We  
 must seek the undivided garment, the whole Christ, as our  
 9 first proof of Christianity, for Christ, Truth, alone can  
 furnish us with absolute evidence.

Two claims  
 omitted

- If the soft palm, upturned to a lordly salary, and archi-  
 12 tectural skill, making dome and spire tremulous with  
 beauty, turn the poor and the stranger from the  
 gate, they at the same time shut the door on  
 15 progress. In vain do the manger and the cross tell their  
 story to pride and fustian.

Selfishness and  
 loss

#### 3. 12:27

- 27 Does Deity interpose in behalf of one worshipper,  
 and not help another who offers the same measure of  
 prayer? If the sick recover because they  
 pray or are prayed for audibly, only peti-  
 30 tioners (*per se* or by proxy) should get well. In divine  
 Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail them-  
 13:1 selves of God as “a very present help in trouble.”  
 Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and  
 3 bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, “Ho,  
 every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.”

Love impartial  
 and universal

#### 4. 79:29-32

- 30 Mind-science teaches that mortals need “not be weary

in well doing.” It dissipates fatigue in doing good. Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us.

Divine strength

5. 234:4

Whatever inspires with wisdom, Truth, or Love — be it song, sermon, or Science — blesses the human family with crumbs of comfort from Christ’s table, feeding the hungry and giving living waters to the thirsty.

Crumbs of comfort

6. 444:13

Students are advised by the author to be charitable and kind, not only towards differing forms of religion and medicine, but to those who hold these differing opinions. Let us be faithful in pointing the way through Christ, as we understand it, but let us also be careful always to “judge righteous judgment,” and never to condemn rashly. “Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” That is, Fear not that he will smite thee again for thy forbearance. If ecclesiastical sects or medical schools turn a deaf ear to the teachings of Christian Science, then part from these opponents as did Abraham when he parted from Lot, and say in thy heart: “Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.” Immortals, or God’s children in divine Science, are one harmonious family; but mortals, or the “children of men” in material sense, are discordant and oftentimes false brethren.

Charity to those opposed

7. 469:25

We lose the high signification of omnipotence, when after admitting that God, or good, is omnipresent and has all-power, we still believe there is another power, named *evil*. This belief that there is more than one mind is as pernicious to divine theology as are ancient mythology and pagan idolatry. With one Father, even God, the whole family of man would be brethren; and with one Mind and that God, or good, the brotherhood of man would consist of Love and Truth, and have unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science. The supposed existence of more than one mind was the basic error of idolatry. This error assumed the loss of spiritual power, the loss of the spiritual presence of Life as infinite Truth without an

The sole governor

unlikeness, and the loss of Love as ever present and universal.

8. 576:26-4

The term Lord, as used in our version of the Old  
 27 Testament, is often synonymous with Jehovah, and ex-  
 presses the Jewish concept, not yet elevated  
 to deific apprehension through spiritual trans-  
 30 figuration. Yet the word gradually approaches a higher  
 meaning. This human sense of Deity yields to the divine  
 577:1 sense, even as the material sense of personality yields  
 to the incorporeal sense of God and man as the infinite  
 3 Principle and infinite idea, — as one Father with His uni-  
 versal family, held in the gospel of Love.

Divine sense of  
 Deity

9. 538:3-13

3 Truth should, and does, drive error out of all selfhood.  
 Truth is a two-edged sword, guarding and guiding.  
 Truth places the cherub wisdom at the gate  
 6 of understanding to note the proper guests.  
 Radiant with mercy and justice, the sword of Truth  
 gleams afar and indicates the infinite distance between  
 9 Truth and error, between the material and spiritual, —  
 the unreal and the real.

Spiritual  
 gateway

The sun, giving light and heat to the earth, is a figure  
 12 of divine Life and Love, enlightening and sustaining the  
 universe.

Contrasted  
 testimony

10. 254:31

Pilgrim on earth, thy home  
 is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God.

**From the Christian Science hymnal:**

**Hymn 573: “Shepherd, show me how to go”**

**Hymn 388: “When like a stranger on our sphere”**

**Hymn 157: “Jesus’ prayer for all his brethren”**