

Reclaiming Man's Purity

December 6, 2017

Hymns 15, 371, 19

The Bible

New Living Translation —

II Sam. 13:1-3 Absalom (to 2nd), 3 and, 4-13 2nd And (to 1st), 14-22 (to 1st Absalom), 22

Now David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. And Amnon, her half brother, fell desperately in love with her. Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. She was a virgin, and Amnon thought he could never have her.

But Amnon had a very crafty friend—his cousin Jonadab. One day Jonadab said to Amnon, "What's the trouble? Why should the son of a king look so dejected morning after morning?"

So Amnon told him, "I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

"Well," Jonadab said, "I'll tell you what to do. Go back to bed and pretend you are ill. When your father comes to see you, ask him to let Tamar come and prepare some food for you. Tell him you'll feel better if she prepares it as you watch and feeds you with her own hands."

So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. And when the king came to see him, Amnon asked him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and cook my favorite dish as I watch. Then I can eat it from her own hands." So David agreed and sent Tamar to Amnon's house to prepare some food for him.

When Tamar arrived at Amnon's house, she went to the place where he was lying down so he could watch her mix some dough. Then she baked his favorite dish for him. But when she set the serving tray before him, he refused to eat. "Everyone get out of here," Amnon told his servants. So they all left.

Then he said to Tamar, "Now bring the food into my bedroom and feed it to me here." So Tamar took his favorite dish to him. But as she was feeding him, he grabbed her and demanded, "Come to bed with me, my darling sister."

"No, my brother!" she cried. "Don't be foolish! Don't do this to me! Such wicked things aren't done in Israel. Where could I go in my shame? And you would be called one of the greatest fools in Israel."

But Amnon wouldn't listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he forced her and lay with her. Then suddenly Amnon's love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!" he said to her.

"No!" Tamar cried. "Sending me away now is worse than what you've already done to me."

But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. He shouted for his servant and demanded, "Throw this woman out, and bolt the door behind her!" So the servant put her out and locked the door behind her.

She was wearing a long, beautiful robe, as was the custom in those days for the king's virgin daughters. But now Tamar tore her robe and put ashes on her head. And then, with her face in her hands, she went away crying.

Her brother Absalom saw her and asked, "Is it true that Amnon has been with you? Well, my sister, keep quiet for now, since he's your brother. Don't you worry about it." So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in her brother Absalom's house.

When King David heard what had happened, he was very angry. And though Absalom never spoke to Amnon about this, he hated Amnon deeply because of what he had done to his sister.

King James Translation —

Job 22:29 (to ;)

When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up;

Ps. 51:2, 6-8 (to ;), 9, 10

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ... Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; ... Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

John 8:1-11

Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Prov. 28:13

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Prov. 30:5

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psalms 19:7-11 (to Moreover), 11 in

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover in keeping of them there is great reward.

Phil. 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

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

SH 449:28 Only (only)

Only virtue is a rebuke to vice.

SH 595:24 (only)

UNCLEANLINESS. Impure thoughts; error; sin; dirt.

SH 449:21-24

The first impression, made on a mind which is attracted or repelled according to personal merit or demerit, is a good detective of individual character.

SH 67:18

The notion that animal natures can possibly give force to character is too absurd for consideration, when we remember that through spiritual ascendancy our Lord and Master healed the sick, raised the dead, and commanded even the winds and waves to obey him. Grace and Truth are potent beyond all other means and methods.

SH 61:4-6, 9-11

The good in human affections must have ascendancy over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happiness will never be won. ... Every valley of sin must be exalted, and every mountain of selfishness be brought low, that the highway of our God may be prepared in Science.

SH 40:9-12

Science removes the penalty only by first removing the sin which incurs the penalty. This is my sense of divine pardon, which I understand to mean God's method of destroying sin.

SH 10:31-32 (to ?); 11:1-17 Without

Do you ask wisdom to be merciful and not to punish sin? ... Without punishment, sin would multiply. Jesus' prayer, "Forgive us our debts," specified also the terms of forgiveness. When forgiving the adulterous woman he said, "Go, and sin no more."

A magistrate sometimes remits the penalty, but this may be no moral benefit to the criminal, and at best, it only saves the criminal from one form of punishment. The moral law, which has the right to acquit or condemn, always demands restitution before mortals can "go up higher." Broken law brings penalty in order to compel this progress.

Mere legal pardon (and there is no other, for divine Principle never pardons our sins or mistakes till they are corrected) leaves the offender free to repeat the offence, if indeed, he has not already suffered sufficiently from vice to make him turn from it with loathing.

SH 453:18-21

You uncover sin, not in order to injure, but in order to bless the corporeal man; and a right motive has its reward. Hidden sin is spiritual wickedness in high places.

SH 542:5

Though error hides behind a lie and excuses guilt, error cannot forever be concealed. Truth, through her eternal laws, unveils error. Truth causes sin to betray itself, and sets upon error the mark of the beast. Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy.

SH 11:17-18

Truth bestows no pardon upon error, but wipes it out in the most effectual manner.

SH 453:16-17

Honesty is spiritual power. Dishonesty is human weakness, which forfeits divine help.

SH 449:7-8 (to 1st .), 9-11

The wrong done another reacts most heavily against one's self. ... Think it "easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle," than for you to benefit yourself by injuring others.

SH 6:11-14

To cause suffering as the result of sin, is the means of destroying sin. Every supposed pleasure in sin will furnish more than its equivalent of pain, until belief in material life and sin is destroyed.

SH 318:9-10

The material senses originate and support all that is material, untrue, selfish, or debased.

SH 91:16

Absorbed in material selfhood we discern and reflect but faintly the substance of Life or Mind. The denial of material selfhood aids the discernment of man's spiritual and eternal individuality, and destroys the erroneous knowledge gained from matter or through what are termed the material senses.

SH 201:7 Truth

Truth makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away and "all things are become new." Passions, selfishness, false appetites, hatred, fear, all sensuality, yield to spirituality, and the superabundance of being is on the side of God, good.

SH 515:22

All that God imparts moves in accord with Him, reflecting goodness and power.

SH 289:8-11

A wicked mortal is not the idea of God. He is little else than the expression of error. To suppose that sin, lust, hatred, envy, hypocrisy, revenge, have life abiding in them, is a terrible mistake.

SH 516:28-29 God

God made man in His own image, to reflect the divine Spirit.

SH 516:9-12 Life, 21

Life is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in goodness, which impart their own peace and permanence. ... Man and woman as coexistent and eternal with God forever reflect, in glorified quality, the infinite Father-Mother God.

SH 337:11, 16-17 (to ;)

The truth of being makes man harmonious and immortal, while error is mortal and discordant. ... In proportion to his purity is man perfect;

SH 324:5

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

SH 324:4-5

The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress.

SH 7:18-21

If spiritual sense always guided men, there would grow out of ecstatic moments a higher experience and a better life with more devout self-abnegation and purity.

SH 15:23

The Master's injunction is, that we pray in secret and let our lives attest our sincerity.

SH 95:12-13

Whoever reaches this point of moral culture and goodness cannot injure others, and must do them good.

SH 444:16-19

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.

SH 324:7-9 (to ;), 11-13

Unless the harmony and immortality of man are becoming more apparent, we are not gaining the true idea of God; ... Therefore “acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace.” Be watchful, sober, and vigilant.

SH 240:18

Mortals move onward towards good or evil as time glides on. If mortals are not progressive, past failures will be repeated until all wrong work is effaced or rectified. If at present satisfied with wrong-doing, we must learn to loathe it. If at present content with idleness, we must become dissatisfied with it. Remember that mankind must sooner or later, either by suffering or by Science, be convinced of the error that is to be overcome.

SH 39:8-9

We must have trials and self-denials, as well as joys and victories, until all error is destroyed.

SH 568:24-30

For victory over a single sin, we give thanks and magnify the Lord of Hosts. What shall we say of the mighty conquest over all sin? A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her primal and everlasting strain.

SH 99:23-29

The calm, strong currents of true spirituality, the manifestations of which are health, purity, and self-immolation, must deepen human experience, until the beliefs of material existence are seen to be a bald imposition, and sin, disease, and death give everlasting place to the scientific demonstration of divine Spirit and to God’s spiritual, perfect man.

SH 497:24 1st And

And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.
