

## Wednesday Readings February 10, 2021

The Parables of the Trees teach us moral courage and hope

Hymns 574, 581, 77

### The Bible

#### New International Version

**Proverbs 1:5** Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance – for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

**Judges 8:33 *it came*, 34** ... No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god and did not remember the Lord their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.

**Judges 9: 1-6** Abimelek son of Jerub-Baal went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and said to them and to all his mother's clan, "Ask all the citizens of Shechem, 'Which is better for you: to have all seventy of Jerub-Baal's sons rule over you, or just one man?' Remember, I am your flesh and blood."

When the brothers repeated all this to the citizens of Shechem, they were inclined to follow Abimelek, for they said, "He is related to us." They gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, and Abimelek used it to hire reckless scoundrels, who became his followers. He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his seventy brothers, the sons of Jerub-Baal. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerub-Baal, escaped by hiding. Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelek king.

**Ps 25:14** The Lord confides in those who fear him: he makes his covenant known to them.

**Judges 9: 7-15, 21** When Jotham was told about this, he climbed up on the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted to them, "Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, 'Be our king.'

"But the olive tree answered, 'Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?' "Next, the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come and be our king.' "But the fig tree replied, 'Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?'

“Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’ “But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and humans, to hold sway over the trees?’

“Finally all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’ “The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’

...And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

### **King James Version**

**Ps 31:24** Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

**Mark 11:11 Jesus, 12–14 (to 1<sup>st</sup>), 19–22** ...Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever ...And when even was come, he went out of the city. And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

**Joel 1:12 the fig** ... the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, *even* all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

**Luke 13:6-9** He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

**Job 31:2,4-6** For what portion of God *is there* from above? and *what* inheritance of the Almighty from on high? ...Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hastened to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

**Mark 11:23** For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

**Job 36:22–25** Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him? Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity? Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold. Every man may see it; man may behold it afar off.

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

**97:22** It requires courage to utter truth; for the higher Truth lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion.

**142:26-2** Which was first, Mind or medicine? If Mind was first and self-existent, then Mind, not matter, must have been the first medicine. God being All-in-all, He made medicine; but that medicine was Mind. It could not have been matter, which departs from the nature and character of Mind, God. Truth is God's remedy for error of every kind, and Truth destroys only what is untrue.

**104:19-22** The medicine of Science is divine Mind; and dishonesty, sensuality, falsehood, revenge, malice, are animal propensities and by no means the mental qualities which heal the sick.

**446:18-20** A wrong motive involves defeat. In the Science of Mind-healing, it is imperative to be honest, for victory rests on the side of immutable right.

**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.

**272:6-8** In the soil of an "honest and good heart" the seed must be sown; else it beareth not much fruit, for the swinish element in human nature uproots it.

**143:13-16** Sometimes the human mind uses one error to medicine another. Driven to choose between two difficulties, the human mind takes the lesser to relieve the greater.

**490:3** Will-power is but a product of belief, and this belief commits depredations on harmony. Human will is an animal propensity, not a faculty of Soul. Hence it cannot govern man aright. Christian Science reveals Truth and Love as the motive-powers of man. Will — blind, stubborn, and headlong — cooperates with appetite and passion. From this cooperation arises its evil. From this also comes its powerlessness, since all power belongs to God, good.

**447:32-2** To assume that there are no claims of evil and yet to indulge them, is a moral offence.

**448:5-7** Evil which obtains in the bodily senses, but which the heart condemns, has no foundation; but if evil is uncondemned, it is undenied and nurtured.

**130:4** When all men are bidden to the feast, the excuses come. One has a farm, another has merchandise, and therefore they cannot accept.

**373:15-21** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," but the Scriptures also declare, through the exalted thought of John, that "perfect Love casteth out fear."

**30:32-9** When mortals once admit that evil confers no pleasure, they turn from it. Remove error from thought, and it will not appear in effect. The advanced thinker and devout Christian, perceiving the scope and tendency of Christian healing and its Science, will support them. Another will say: "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season I will call for thee." ...Divine Science adjusts the balance as Jesus adjusted it.

**449:11-21** Man's moral mercury, rising or falling, registers his healing ability and fitness to teach. You should practise well what you know, and you will then advance in proportion to your honesty and fidelity, — qualities which insure success in this Science; but it requires a higher understanding to teach this subject properly and correctly than it does to heal the most difficult case. ...The baneful effect of evil associates is less seen than felt. The inoculation of evil human thoughts ought to be understood and guarded against.

**155:15-21** The universal belief in physics weighs against the high and mighty truths of Christian metaphysics. This erroneous general belief, which sustains medicine and produces all medical results, works against Christian Science; and the percentage of power on the side of this Science must mightily outweigh the power of popular belief in order to heal a single case of disease.

**390:18-20** “Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him.”

**151:8** Great respect is due the motives and philanthropy of the higher class of physicians. We know that if they understood the Science of Mind-healing, and were in possession of the enlarged power it confers to benefit the race physically and spiritually, they would rejoice with us. Even this one reform in medicine would ultimately deliver mankind from the awful and oppressive bondage now enforced by false theories, from which multitudes would gladly escape.

**203:3-8** In the Science of Christianity, Mind — omnipotence — has all-power, assigns sure rewards to righteousness, and shows that matter can neither heal nor make sick, create nor destroy....If God were understood instead of being merely believed, this understanding would establish health.

**270:31-1** The life of Christ Jesus was not miraculous, but it was indigenous to his spirituality, — the good soil wherein the seed of Truth springs up and bears much fruit.

**332:32** Thus it is that Christ illustrates the coincidence, or spiritual agreement, between God and man in His image.

**X:22-25** The divine Principle of healing is proved in the personal experience of any sincere seeker of Truth. Its purpose is good, and its practice is safer and more potent than that of any other sanitary method.

**15:28-30** Practice not profession, understanding not belief, gain the ear and right hand of omnipotence and they assuredly call down infinite blessings.

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### Tonight's Hymns

**Hymn #574** “Feed My Sheep” - Words by Mary Baker Eddy

Shepherd, show me how to go / O'er the hillside steep, / How to gather, how to sow, — / How to feed Thy sheep; / I will listen for Thy voice, / Lest my footsteps stray; / I will follow and rejoice / All the rugged way.

Thou wilt bind the stubborn will, / Wound the callous breast, / Make self-righteousness be still, / Break earth's stupid rest. / Strangers on a barren shore, / Lab'ring long and lone, / We would enter by the door, / And Thou know'st Thine own;

So, when day grows dark and cold, / Tear or triumph harms, / Lead Thy lambkins to the fold, / Take them in Thine arms; / Feed the hungry, heal the heart, / Till the morning's beam; / White as wool, ere

they depart, / Shepherd, wash them clean.  
(Christian Science Hymnal)

**Hymn #581-** Words by William P. McKenzie

There are none friendless, none afraid, / The saving Truth who know, / Their shining path leads from  
the shade, / And up to light they go.

Truth sets us free from thought of sin; / It heals all sorrow's blight. / Immortal joy is found therein, /  
And there shall be no night.

And O, may we, God's children true, / God's healing love make known, / And see by faith all things  
made new / When ruled by Love alone.

(Christian Science Hymnal)

**Hymn #77** – Words by James Montgomery

God is my strong salvation; / What foe have I to fear? / In darkness and temptation, / My light, my  
help is near: / Though hosts encamp around me, / Firm in the fight I stand; / What terror can  
confound me, / With God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; / My heart, with courage wait; / His truth be thine affianced, / When faint  
and desolate: / His might thy heart shall strengthen, / His love thy joy increase; / Thy day shall mercy  
lengthen: / The Lord will give thee peace.

(Christian Science Hymnal)