

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Man Healed of Dropsy

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And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees, to eat bread on the Sabbath day, that they watched him.

And, behold, there was a certain man before him, which had the dropsy.

And Jesus, answering, spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?

And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;

And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?

And they could not answer him again to these things.—*Luke 14:1-6.*

Christ Jesus, the Lord of Love, centered His work in the supreme Law which is Love. He lost no opportunity of teaching and demonstrating this fundamental truth whenever He could and wherever He might be. On this occasion, as on a previous Sabbath, He sought to teach the literalists the preeminence of Love over the rigid and formal code which was the only law they knew. This He achieved by healing a man of dropsy, in defiance of the Sabbatical laws which the literalists interpreted to prohibit anything in the way of labor on the Sabbath, even if it were the divine labor of healing.

The Sabbath observance was one of many customs which the Hebrews inherited from Chaldea. The Chaldeans observed five Sabbaths a month, and it was they who divided their month into the weekly period of seven days, dedicated successively to the Sun, Moon, and five planets. This division of time was in use in Chaldea even so long ago as the time of Abraham, who, as a Chaldean Prince, must have been familiar with it before he heard the voice of a New Revelation calling him to go forth into a new land. An Assyrian calendar explains that the Sabbath means "completion of work, a day of rest for the

soul." It appears that it was unlawful to cook food, to change clothing, or even to sacrifice on the Sabbath; and the king was forbidden, we are told, to speak in public, to ride in a chariot, to perform any kind of military or civil duty, and even to take medicine on this day.

As there were five Babylonian Sabbaths each month, there were sometimes more than one in a week. These Sabbaths, however, were not dedicated to any particular day, but came regularly on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th day of the month, regardless of the day of the week on which those dates fell. Thus all the star deities received homage in regular succession, and if any Sabbath was any holier than another that was due to the special reverence felt for certain gods in localities sacred to them from remote antiquity. Not only the Assyrians and Jews but also the Phoenicians shared the Babylonian Sabbath observance.

It is significant that of these Sabbaths, the Jews selected for special observance only the Day of Saturn, or Saturday, the seventh day of the week. Seven is the number of completion, enfoldment, rest, assimilation. Thus in the course of time their Sabbatical laws expressed more and more the rigidity of the Saturnian principle in its negative, or formalistic, aspect. Christ Jesus came bringing a new pronouncement, the power and light of a New Day and a New Age, based upon the Solar Principle. It has been frequently remarked by astrological students of such matters that the word "Satan" derives from Saturn, and in the Arabic language "Shaitan" means "He who despairs." Arabic and Hebrew bear much the same resemblance as we find between Spanish and Portuguese.

The Day of the Sun sponsored by the Christ bears a much deeper significance than the average individual comprehends. The Sun is the center of life, light, and love for the entire solar system to which this Earth belongs. The Sun's Day therefore should be the day in which we dedicate ourselves to becoming miniature suns, centers of radiating love, light, and helpfulness as far as the radius of our influence extends.

Sunday is the first day, the New Day, the beginning of a new week, a time for the assimilation of the soul essences extracted from the experiences of the preceding week; and this assimilation is the starting point of a *new process*, for which it is the alchemical stone of tincture. The new Sun Laws of fellowship, equality, and oneness which Christ Jesus championed, and which He immortalized in the Sermon on the Mount, are yet, even after two thousand years have elapsed, a center of controversy wherever an individual or a group has caught a vision of their meaning and endeavored to introduce them into practical, everyday living. Had mankind followed the Sun Laws of Christ instead of the Saturn Laws of the Scribes and Pharisees the world would not be the confused place it is today.

On another Sabbath the Master tried to teach the supremacy of Love over Law when He healed the withered hand publicly. On this Sabbath Day He endeavored to soften the Pharasaic obduracy by healing the dropsical man in the home of one of the leading Pharisees where He had gone to partake of the sacred Sunday meal. But minds and hearts were closed to His teachings, hence their ultimate destiny was the loss of all those *things* which they put before Christ. The same fate awaits the modern followers of pharisaical law, be they Jew, Christian, or pagan.

In the lesson which the Christ gives immediately following the healing of the man with dropsy, He conveys a subtle intimation as to its cause and ultimate cure. This is to be found in the parable

of humility wherein He admonishes those who come to the banquet to be content with the lower seats until invited by the host to come higher. He then adds the formula for true spiritual attainment which all Masters of Wisdom have handed down since the beginning of time, but which, even to this modern day, is the most difficult for the aspirant to accept and follow: "For whosoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whosoever humbles himself shall be exalted."—(Luke 14:11.)

(Continued)

Needless for me to tell you how much the *Rays* has meant to me. With my study of the *Cosmo* and the Bible Lessons, the *Rays* has been my favorite magazine. I look forward to its arrival each month. God bless you all for the wonderful enlightenment you are projecting out to the world.—L.S.



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