

L E C T U R E

THE BOOK OF THE LAW

-by-

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U N I T Y A U D I T O R I U M

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The lesson to-day is "The Book of the Law", the reading of the Book of the Law by Ezra, described, recorded in the Eighth Chapter of Nehemiah, which states that after thirteen years' absence from Jerusalem, Ezra appeared suddenly at the gate, at the water gate, with the Scripture, from which he read, raised upon a pulpit of wood, because he was above the people. And as he read the people bowed in adoration, which was the custom, I presume, in Oriental countries, down upon their knees, with their heads upon the ground.

Now this, of course, to us represents a state of mind in those who are seeking to know the Divine Law. Man must grow into his higher realms of consciousness. He is becoming a God. Being is manifest in its universe, at which man stands the head. The question, then, with every one of us is, "What is the Law of the Universe, and how shall we attain to it; how shall we observe it?"

Now this lesson, to the metaphysician, is an illustration of the first step. Ezra read this scripture on the first day of the month. All these figures are symbolical. The first day of the month is the first step in those who wish to know about the law, the Divine Law. Then this is the temporary step. It isn't real. It is the staging upon which the mind rests its case. So Ezra was put upon a pulpit of wood. Now wood is a perishable, transitory thing. It isn't substantial like that iron pillar; it doesn't endure. Then, he was at the water gate. Water is a negative element. It represents a negative state of mind. And when he read the scripture, all the people bowed. There is another attitude of negation. And it is evident he read from the first of the Bible, the books of Moses, which are all, "Thou shalt not"- in negative statements.

But this is a necessary state of mind. It represents that first step that we every one take when we wish to get a deeper insight into spiritual things. If you want to know more about this divine law that rules the universe, you must read out of that law. You have within you, I have within me - every one of us has this Ezra scribe. He is the one who knows that there is such a thing as spirit. Ezra was one of the prophets, and yet he must demonstrate that fact. And the first movement of the mind in demonstration is asking. "Ask and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; seek and ye shall find". You must, if you would know this Divine Law, put yourself in an attitude of receiving. You must become a seeker.

God doesn't give any of us anything unless we pay for it. You must earn what you get. Now, this earning of understanding is done with the mind. It isn't a muscular work. It isn't something that we get through any outside effort whatever; but the mind must still its external effort, and seek God. Now, God is



Spirit, and the Law of God is here for every one of us if we seek in the right way. Now, if you would know this law, which the higher man does know, - through all the ages people have testified that God had revealed to them His law, and we must accept this testimony, because it has been demonstrated. Jesus Christ understood the law, and He demonstrated it, which is evidence that He had that understanding. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Now, then, if I know the law - if you would know the law, put yourself in that receptive attitude. If you have been a reader of this scripture all your life, it may be that you look to that as the source of instruction, as the source of God's law. Now right here many people get astray. They have been taught from their childhood that this written book is the very word of God; but is it? Has it proved itself in that respect? If God is the one unchangeable, exact, definite principle of existence, God never makes a mistake, never says "yes" when He means "no", then the Bible can't be his unchangeable word, because it is full of contradictions. Then we know that it isn't the direct word of God, but men, discerning this word of God, this Divine Law, have written it out to the best of their ability, and we should receive it as such. And we should revere it to its full authority. Whatever is good in it we should choose, and cast away that which we find to be full of limitations. We should read out of this law just as an attorney before the court cites his authorities. He doesn't bolster up his case by citing authorities that are opposed to the point he wishes to prove. He cites only those authorities that other courts have passed upon and have decided in his favor. So, when one who discerns the Law, knows the truth - and the Lord will give every one of us a discerning spirit - when that one quotes from this Bible, he quotes only those points that will bolster up his case. He is the representative - paid representative - of God, and he doesn't rely his authority by quoting stuff that is contrary to the Truth. He quotes the Truth.

So, when we read in this Scripture that God is the author of evil; that God brings destruction and death upon his people, you say that doesn't prove our case; that can't be true of a God of Eternal goodness, of eternal Life. How can Life have anything to do with death? You turn over to the New Testament, and there we read Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are they that bury their dead; follow thou me". So we have the discerning spirit, and we know exactly where to put this scripture.

Now, it is said that the devil can quote scripture. This is illustrated in the case where Jesus Christ met the adversary in the wilderness after the baptism; and the devil quoted scripture nearly as glibly as Jesus did, but Jesus had understanding. When he quoted scripture he could prove it, he demonstrated it, while his adversary couldn't.

Now, we find in ourselves two states of mind; that is, metaphysicians say there are two egos, the mortal, carnal ego, and the



spiritual, Divine ego. We are forming character around one or the other of these constantly, and it is a question which shall take the supremacy, which shall lead the procession of mind. All of your ideas are marshalled and exercised and used with either the carnal, the personal ego, or the Christ, or spiritual. Now, you can, if you wish, prove this to yourself. You can prove it by the result that you get. If you find yourself in a world of discord and sickness and inharmony and final dissolution of your body, you may know that you are following the adverse ego, the personality; but, if you find, on the other hand, that you are growing into harmony, into peace, into a certain satisfaction, and joy comes to you, you are in the Divine peace that proves to you that you have found something that pertains to the spiritual ego, that it is coming into expression; that the positive side of the situation is asserting itself. But this mortal ego has to be dealt with. It is part of the consciousness, and it must be educated also. Now this step that we read of here, Ezra stood up and read this Law, there was an education or a calling of the attention of this mortal ego, the carnal mind, to the Law. When Jesus Christ spoke to those old jews who read the scripture to Him, tried to make him conform himself to that scripture, he told them, 'Why, you search this scripture and you expect out of this, out of that piece of parchment to get eternal Life - why, you will never do it'. He said, 'you haven't the word of God dwelling in you. You don't know anything about that word'. You must get away from these books; you must get away from that negative law; you must cease to be worshippers on the first day. Get into the second or third day. What is that? Why, it is the positive state of mind.

Now, thousands of people are quoting the scripture and hang on to that as the way into eternal Life. They are like children that, having once gotten the lesson, keep going over and over and over that lesson, thinking that that is going to educate them. They must go on; they must get into that state of mind which is the Christ Mind, having authority to speak the Word, to affirm that "I Am that thing; I am no longer a written book; I am no longer under discipline of the negative Mosaic Law". I have come out from that. I stand with the Supreme Creative Mind, and know the law for myself. That is the second step in the appreciation, in the cultivation of the Divine Man, and the Divine man is the only man that is. That is the man that every one of us have here, waiting for us to grasp and tame. It is the man of spirit, the man that speaks with authority. So, if you would grow rapidly into spiritual understanding, if you would know the law that rules the universe, pray, and then after you have prayed, begin some affirmation, begin the development of the spiritual man within you. Rise up in your own authority and speak some true words; and you, every one of you, know some true words: "God is God; God is All; God is everywhere present; God is the one all-informing Mind; God speaks through me". Why, we are every one of us prophets, we are very one of us prophets, if we enter into the understanding of the positive side of this scripture, and that is all of the scripture. The scripture is written in your minds and in



your hearts, but you will never flash it into expression until you make some affirmation, until you make the positive side instead of the negative.

Now, among the prophets there are those who represent, we might say, the clowns. Jonah was a clown among the prophets in the Old Testament. He was one of those little fellows that we find, if we go to the circus, that tumbles around and makes a joke now and then for the audience. When the Lord told him to do a certain thing, he did right the opposite, he ignored the right thing. He was constantly making conditions that brought what we might call raillery or a joke even on the saints of the Lord. According to the scripture the Lord said unto him, when He told him to do a certain thing and he doesn't do it, "Little man are you wroth?" And again, He said to him, "Little man are you wroth again?" In other words, it seemed almost as if the Lord was joking with Jonah.

Jonah was a joke; remember that when you read the scripture. That idea which was sown here in the book there, has been carried down, down, down until to-day we find people who call those that bring an ill-luck a Jonah. And we have every one of us this Jonah spirit. We sometimes like to joke about spiritual things, and it isn't merely a joke, but we are frequently just like Jonah - adverse when the Lord tells us to do a certain thing. We turn right around and do the very opposite. Why? Well, because we don't pray, to begin with.

Now, Jonah didn't get down on his metaphysical knee to ask the Lord what to do in a certain case, but he rushed right off. He wasn't going to do that, he was going down to Tarsus.

You find in your spiritual development; you say, "Now I have got to have that now - I must have that". You begin your affirmations; you rush right away from probably the very thing that you should observe - that is, the law of receptive asking.

The mortal man should be small in the sight of the Lord to begin with. It is the spiritual man that is the large man; it is the spiritual man that makes these high statements, these affirmations of Spirit. It isn't the mortal. Some people think that because we make high statements for ourselves that we are talking under the mortal law. Not at all! Anyone who makes a statement for his personality has lost sight of the Truth. He is not really in the Divine Law.

Now then, Divine Law is Spirit. Remember that. It is universal. It is that supreme something in us that shows us every time the righteous way; and that righteous way is the way of the Law. The law is personal, working itself into our lives and the



lives of those about us, in a harmonious, exact way. Blackstone says that "Law is a Rule of Action"; that we make or observe these laws and they become part of our daily lives. That is true. And if we incorporate into our consciousness a law of peace and love and power and wisdom, and lay that down as part of the great universal life of ourselves and the rest, it becomes objective; it becomes the written law of the inner consciousness, and that is all the real law is. I wouldn't depreciate this Bible, because it is one of the greatest of our books that was ever written, but it should never bind me. I should never be in bondage to that Bible, because of its many deflections, through men, of the truth.

Now, we have a new translation called the Liether Bible, written by a Jew, Isaac Liether; and it is written from the Jewish standpoint. Nearly all of these translations that we have were made by Englishmen, and they had a creed to substantiate. They interpolated and they eliminated words, and they fixed up the Bible to fit the creed.

You find that this is true. That the little illustration that I gave you a few minutes ago, where in our King James version Jesus said: "Search the scriptures". Now, when that was revised, the Board found that the original translators had just dropped that little word "ye" out, in order to make it a positive command to search the scriptures. Jesus Christ, instead of making it a command, was showing them how they were burdened with the letter of the scriptures, when they should be searching the scriptures trying to get the Divine Life. So, in this Liether translation, we find there so many of the different meanings are not translated correctly. This Hebrew knows the language. For illustration, in the Psalms it is written "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints". Now in Mr. Liether's translation that is changed directly about. He says: "Grievous in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his pious ones". Instead of it being precious in the eyes of the Lord, it grieves the Lord to think that his precious ones or His saints are so foolish as to give up to death.

So you can see, if you study this Bible in the original spirit, it proves our case, and as we search into the inner meaning of this Bible, we find that it has been inspired of God, but it has been warped by the mortality of men to bolster up their preconceived ideas. So I would say to you, when you read the scriptures, read it in the spirit. The letter killeth and the Spirit maketh alive; and the only way to read this scripture aright is to read it from the Jesus Christ view-point. Read it as a spiritual being; read it as you would read something that was for your special unfoldment; that was given to you as a special revelation, and you will find that the scripture becomes anew. It isn't as you thought it was. It is illuminated. It is a different book entirely. You place yourself where these old writers were, with the added understanding that has accumulated



since they wrote. If Paul were here to-day, and his former manuscripts were given to him and he looked them over, don't you suppose that he could make many changes where the limited understanding of the Law had bound him? Why certainly. So there probably isn't a writer of this Old Testament but could improve himself more to-day than if it were given to him at his own day and age. And I assure you that these old fellows are here. They are here re-writing the scripture. I may be talking to some of them. It may be that you are quoting in the wilderness from the devil's side, the Satan's side. Remember that you have in you the Christ, and if you will give your mortality and opportunity; if you will let go of the old book learning, you will know the truth, and you will quote on the spiritual side. You will find that that law is written on your very heart; that the very æther is filled with it - "Thou shalt love thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself".