Signs That Point The Way

Lesson 1, 4th Quarter September 28 – October 4, 2024

Sabbath Afternoon, September 28

Memory Text:

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. KJV – John 20:30, 31

"Jesus performed many other miracles in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written, that you may believe that Christ is the Son of God, and that believing you might have life through his name." John 20:30, 31 This statement shows the great importance, even overshadowing the question, "What is faith in the Son of God?" 16LtMs, Lt 148, 1901, par. 6

"What is the nature of the belief? I think of Christ which the gospel makes so much account, and I find that it is not a mere belief in a dead Christ. It is a living, living faith, which in its operation is compared to accepting Christ as a personal, living, ever-abiding Saviour. We need for sinful, erring human beings.- 16LtMs, Lt 148, 1901, par. 7

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we saw his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:12-14 This is the only true mind cure, the only thing that can save the pertising soul. Human beings, with all their defects, all their wilful perversities, may come to Christ in humility, contrition, and sincere repentance, and receive pardon. Christ will take away their sins and impute to them His righteousness. The Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ and presents them to the earnest seekers, and the salvation of the soul is ensured." 16LtMs, Lt 148, 1901, par. 8

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Sunday, September 29

The Wedding At Cana

Read John 2:1–11. What sign did Jesus do at Cana, and how did this help His disciples to see who He was?

"Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. As a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth in behalf of a company of poor, unknown, and unlettered peasants. He came in order to do desire to minister to their happiness. In the wilderness of temptation He himself had learned how to succor those who are tempted. He knew the sorrows of life, and was acquainted with the grief that is hidden in the heart. 5BIBLE COMMENTARY 1145

"It was the custom of the times for marriage festivities to continue several days. On this occasion, before the feast ended it was found that the supply of wine had failed. The mother of Jesus was concerned perplexity and regret. It was unusual to dispense with wine on festive occasions, and the absence would seem to indicate a want of hospitality. The mother of Jesus was well aware of the power of her Son to remedy the lack, and she turned to Him with the matter in hope. 5BIBLE COMMENTARY 1145

"Beside the doorway stood six large stone water jars, and Jesus bade the servants fill these with water. It was done. Then as the wine was wanted for immediate use, he bade them draw from the water and carry it to the ruler of the feast. Without any of the water with which the vessels had been filled, there flowed forth wine. Neither the ruler of the feast nor the guests had any knowledge of the miracle that had been wrought. The ruler of the feast was surprised at the quality of the wine, and he called the bridegroom and bade him drink, and very different from that served at the beginning of the feast. 5BIBLE COMMENTARY 1145 "Jesus did not make intoxicating wine, but the best wine; and when men had drunk, they were different from that served at the beginning of the feast. 5BIBLE COMMENTARY 1145 "Jesus did not make intoxicating wine, but the best wine; and when men had drunk, they were different from that served at the beginning of the feast. 5BIBLE COMMENTARY 1145

"The attention of the company was now turned to the disciples. For the first time they witnessed the power of their Master. Many who had heard the Baptist speak of Jesus as seen and heard at the jordan, and there was kindled in many hearts the hope that God had raised up a deliverer for His people. The news of the miracle spread through the company, and it was commented upon by persons with new interest the priests and elders searched the prophecies pointing to Christ's coming. There was eager desire to learn more concerning the new teacher, who appeared among the people in so unassuming a manner." DA 150.1

Monday, September 30

The Second Sign in Galilee

Read John 4:46–54. Why does the evangelist make a connection back to the miraculous feeding?

"The news of Christ's return to Cana soon spread throughout Galilee, bringing hope to many who had been in great distress. Among those who had heard of the healing of the Jewish nobleman were we an officer in the king's service. A son of the officer was dangerously sick at Capernaum, and his father had tried every remedy he knew of to do but when the father heard of Jesus, he determined to seek help from him. The news of the healing of the nobleman's son, however, might not live till his return, yet he remembered felt that he must preserve the case in person. He hoped that a father's prayers might weaken the sympathy of the Great Physician. DA 196.3

"On reaching Cana he found a driving surrounding Jesus. With an anxious heart he pushed forward to the place where the Saviour was. Unknown to Him he saw in the plainly dressed man, dusty and worn with travel, He doubted that this Person could do aught to help his child. Yet he was so distressed that he ventured to speak, and he erred, and because the Saviour so accompany him to his home. But already his faith strengthened, and he was willing to learn. He was willing to leave his child in the care of Jesus, and he went his way, believing. DA 196.4

"But He knew also the father that, in his own mind, made conditions concerning his belief in Jesus. Unless his petition should be granted, he would not receive Him as the Saviour of his child. Jesus perceived the state of the father's heart. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe," DA 198.1

"But a flash of light, the Saviour's words to the nobleman set burn his heart. He saw that his motives in seeking Jesus were selfish. His vacillating faith appeared to him in its true character. In deep distress he realized that his doubt might cost the life of his son. He knew that he was in the presence of One who could read the thoughts, and to whom all things were possible. In an agony of supplication he cried, "Sir, come down ere my child die." His faith took hold upon Christ as did Jacob, when, wrestling with the Angel, he cried, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Genesis 32:26. DA 198.4

"Like Jacob he prevailed. The Saviour cannot withdraw from the soul that clings to Him in such earnest desire. "Go thy way," He said, "thy son liveth." The nobleman left the Saviour's presence with a peace and joy he had never known before. Not only did he believe himself to be healed, but with strong confidence he trusted in Christ as the Redeemer." DA 198.5

Tuesday, October 1

The Miracle at the pool of Bethesda

Read John 5:1–9. Because anyone by the pool obviously wanted to get well, why did Christ ask him if he did? What does this mean for us?

"Jesus was again at Jerusalem. Walking alone, in apparent meditation and prayer, He came to the pool, the same the wretched sufferers watching for that which they had been waiting for so long. Among the crowd of blind, lame, and withered, Jesus saw a man who had been a cripple for thirty-eight years. Some of his companions, belonging to the temple for worship, and the knew that such an act of healing would so excite the jealousy of the priests as to cut short His work. DA 201.1

"But the Saviour saw one case of superior wretchedness. It was that of a man who had been a helpless cripple for thirty-eight years. His disease was in a great degree the result of his own sin, and he was now suffering the penalty of his evil deeds. Jesus knew, therefore, feeling that he was shut out from God's mercy, the sufferer had passed long years of misery. At the time when it was expected that the waters would be troubled, he was too feeble to reach the healing agent. As he turned to and fro, he saw the favored moment he had no one to help him in. He had seen the rippling of the water, and he knew that others were able to get farther than the edge of the pool. Others might and he would plunge in before him. He could not contend successfully with the selfish, unsympathetic, and he was crowded back and trampled upon. Many who had already any contested disappointment, were feel weary away the remnant of his strength. DA 202.3

"The sick man was long on his mat, and occasionally lifting his head to gaze at the troubled water, and the disappointed expression of his face was a sad sight to behold. "Wilt thou made whole?" arrested his attention. Hope came to his heart. He felt that in some way he was to be helped. The tones of the speaker were musical with tender compassion. The Pharisees, and immediately told them of his cure. He was surprised at the coldness with which they listened to his story." DA 203.3

"Jesus had healed the impotent man on the Sabbath because it a jotter of bondage. Their meaningless requirements had become a byword among other nations. Especially was the Sabbath perverted by all manner of arbitrary requirements which were to be a delight, the holy of the Lord, and honorable. The scribes and Pharisees had made its observance a burden, and it was to them a day of misery. It was to Christ a day for every light a candle on the Sabbath. As a nonsectarian the people were dependent upon the priests and rulers for instruction in the law of God. Christ was not dependent on the priests and rulers for instruction in the law of God. He was independent of them. Many of them were as guilty as if they had done the work themselves. They thought the Sabbath was made for them, and they were right. As he turned of his way, he was greatly hopeless, could be made no worse. But God has given to commandments which contained no blessing, and which were burdensome and grievous to the soul." DA 204.1

"The healed man was overjoyed at meeting his Deliverer. Ignorant of the enmity toward Jesus, he told the Pharisees who had questioned him, that this was He who had healed him. Instantly the Pharisees were filled with indignation that Jesus had dared to heal Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day." DA 204.3

"What do these other accounts teach about how spiritually hard people can become, regardless of the evidence? Read John 9:1–16, Mark 3:22, 23, Matt. 12:9–14?

"The Pharisees could not be ordained at the Lord. Yet they were more than ever filled with hatred. For the miracle had been performed on the Sabbath day." DA 205.1

"Then they brought him before a council of the Pharisees. Again the man was asked how he had received his sight. "He put clay on mine eyes, and I washed, and do see." Some of the Pharisees were ready to accept the evidence of the man's cure, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day." The Pharisees hoped to make Jesus out to be a sinner, and therefore not the Messiah. They knew not that it was He who had made the Sabbath and knew all its obligation, who had healed the blind man. They appeared wonderfully zealous for the observance of the Sabbath, yet were planning murder on that very day. But many were greatly moved at hearing of this miracle, and were convinced that he who had opened the eyes of the blind was more than a transgressor of the law. Some of the Pharisees were willing to search the Scriptures for the Sabbath day, they said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" DA 472.1

Wednesday, October 2

Heard Hearts

Read John 5:10–16. What lessons can we take away from the amazing hardness of the religious leaders' hearts in regard to Jesus and the miracle He had just performed?

"The restored paralytic stooped to take up his bed, which was only a rag and a mattress, and straightened himself to his full stature, and he was a man. He was prepared for his Deliverer; but Jesus was not there to see in the crowd. The man feared the Saviour had left him, and he was in haste to find Him, that he might express his joy at free step, praising God and rejoicing in his new-found strength. He met several of the Pharisees, and immediately told them of his cure. He was surprised at the coldness with which they listened to his story." DA 203.3

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Thursday, October 3

Conclusion

Read John 5:16–18. Why was Jesus persecuted for His action on the Sabbath?

"But the plans which these rabbis were working so zealously to fulfill originated in another count than that of the Sanhedrin. After Satan had failed to overcome Christ in the wilderness, he combined his forces to oppose him in His ministry, and if possible to thwart His work. What he could not accomplish by direct, personal effort, he sought to accomplish by strategy. No sooner had he withdrawn from the conflict in the wilderness than in council with his confederate angels he matured his plans for the ruin of the Saviour. Satan knew that if he could cause the Jewish rulers to misjudge their Redeemer, he could so blind them as to make them carry his hatred through the city in order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of Christ's authority in the minds of the people, and would open the way for him to denounce the rebellious of the Jews in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare that Christ was a sinner." DA 203.1

"Jesus had come to "magnify the law, and make it honorable." He was not to lessen its dignity, but to exalt it. The sentiment that God had set forth in the decalogue, Christ to have set judgment in the earth." Isaiah 42:21, 4. He had come to free the Sabbath from burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing. DA 206.1

"The little reason the Jews had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing was because it was the Sabbath. Had Christ wished to perform a work of healing in order to be a transgressor of the Sabbath, He could have healed the man at any time, and would not have given him the opportunity He desired. A wise purpose underly every action of Christ's life. He was ever seeking to impress the minds of the people with the teaching. Among the afflicted ones at the pool He selected the worst case upon which to perform a miracle, that the lesson might be impressed upon the minds of the people. In order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of Christ's authority in the minds of the people, and would open the way for him to denounce the rebellious of the Jews in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare that Christ was a sinner." DA 203.2

"The whole relation of the Jews called God their Father, therefore they would not have been so enraged if Christ had represented Himself as standing in the same relation to God as they. Christ had not claimed to be God's son, if they understood Him as making this claim in the highest sense." DA 207.4

"Jesus repelled the charge of blasphemy. My authority, He said, for doing the work of which you accuse Me, is that I am the Son of God, one with Him in nature, in will, and in purpose. In all His words of criticism and condemnation, I co-operate with God. The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do." The priests and rulers claimed to be the sons of God, and to be the light and the salvation of the world to do. By their sins they had separated themselves from God, and in their pride were moving independently of Him. They felt sufficient in themselves for all things, and were ready to call for a higher wisdom to direct their acts. But the Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that he made no claim to himself. He accepted God's plans for him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will." DA 207.2

Friday, October 4

Further Thought

"The Jewish leaders had studied the teachings of the prophets concerning the kingdom of the Messiah; but they had done this, not with a sincere desire to know the truth, but with the purpose of finding evidence to sustain their ambitious hopes. When Christ came in a manner contrary to their expectations, they would not receive Him, and in order to reject Him they must reject the teachings of the prophets. Even when they had set their feet in this path, it was easy for Satan to strengthen their opposition to Christ. They were willing to believe what he suggested to them concerning the Saviour. They were interpreted against him. Thus they turned the truth of God into a lie, and the more obviously the evidence of Christ's work in works of mercy, the more determined they were in resisting the light." DA 210.2