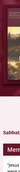
Signs of Divinity

Lesson 2, 4th Quarter October 5-11, 2024.



Sabbath Afternoon, October 5

Memory Text:

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? KJV – John 11:25, 26. NKJV

"Still seeking to give a true direction to her faith, Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life." In Christ is life, original, underived, unlimited. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. "He that believeth in Me," said Jesus, "though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His word and His works He declared himself the Author of the resurrection. He who himself was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life. DA 530.3

Sunday, October 6

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Read John 6:1-14. What parallels can be found here between Jesus and Moses? That is, what did the miracle that Christ performed have in common with the people of the deliverance that their ancestors had received through the ministry of Moses?

"At length the day was far spent. The sun was sinking in the west, and yet the people lingered. Jesus had labored all day without food or rest. He was glad to see the people, and was willing to have the sick brought him to cease from His toil. But He could not withdraw Himself from the multitude that pressed upon Him.

"The disciples finally came to him, urging that for their own sake the people should be sent away. Many apparently had come without any provision for themselves, and the disciples knew some villages they might be able to buy food. But Jesus said, 'Give ye them to eat,' and then, turning to Philip, questioned, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" This He said to test the faith of the disciple. Philip looked over the sea of heads, and thought how impossible it would be to provide food to satisfy the wants of so many. He answered that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be nearly enough to divide among them, so that each might have a little. Jesus inquired of the disciples, to ascertain how much provision they had. Andrew, who had heard the lad's request, had five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many? Jesus directed that the people be made to sit down in companies, that the miracle might be witnessed by a large number. Then of a hundred is scattered among the people, and all eat and are satisfied. Jesus bids us do. When this was accomplished, Jesus took the food, 'and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.' And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes." DA 365.3

"Christ never worked a miracle except to supply a genuine necessity, and every miracle was of a character to lead the people to the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. The simple food passed round by the hands of the disciples contained a whole treasure of lessons. It spoke of Christ as the living bread which sustained the life of the world. Christ was the food, and as the fitter folk about the Sea of Galilee, Christ could have spread before the people a rich repast, but food prepared merely for the gratification of appetite would have conveyed no lesson for their spiritual benefit. Christ would teach them that the bounties of God for man had been perverted. And never did people enjoy the luxurious feasts prepared for the gratification of perverted taste as did those who enjoyed the rest and the simple food which Christ provided so far from human habitations." DA 366.1

Monday, October 7

"Surely, He is the Prophet."

Read John 6:14, 15, 26-36. How did the people respond to His miracle, and how did Jesus use this to try to teach them who he was?

"Seated upon the grassy plain, in the twilight of the spring evening, the people ate of the food that Christ had provided. They had witnessed the miracle, and they were ready to receive the Lord God. The works of healing they had witnessed were such as only divine power could perform. But the miracle of the loaves and fishes was a miracle of mercy, such as they had not seen. Moses, when in the land of Midian, had fed the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro in the desert, and who was this that had fed them that day but He whom Moses had foretold? No human power could create from five barley loaves and two small fishes food sufficient to feed thousands of hungry people. And they said one to another, 'This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world.' DA 377.1

"In their enthusiasm the people are ready at once to crown Him king. They see that he makes no effort to attract attention to himself. Instead of seeking to be recognized as the leader of the priests and rulers, and they fear that He will never reign His claim to David's throne. Consulting together, they decide that they will force Him to accept the position to which they have elected Him. Jesus is with the disciples when the purpose of David's kingship is brought to their knowledge. It is the modesty of Christ, they say, that causes him to refuse such honor. Let the people exalt their king, and force proud earthly greats and rulers to bend to honor Him who comes clothed with the authority of God. DA 378.1

"They eagerly arrange to carry out their purpose, but Jesus sees what is on foot, and understandings, and they cannot, with their utmost skill, conceal it from Him. Even now the prince of darkness is hunting His life. They arouse Him of drawing the people away from them. Violence and insurrection would follow an effort to place Him on the throne, and the work of the spiritual kingdom would be hindered. Without delay the movement must be checked. Calling His disciples, Jesus bids them take ship and sail across the lake, commanding the multitude to dismiss the people." DA 378.2

"Jesus did not grieve their curiosity. He sadly said, "I tell thee, not, but because ye saw the miracles, and because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." They did not seek Him from any worthy motive; but as they had been fed with the loaves, they hoped still to receive temporal benefit by continuing in His presence. Jesus said to them, "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life." Seek not merely for material benefit. Let it not be the chief effort to provide for the wants of the body. Seek for spiritual food, that which will endure unto everlasting life. This the Son of God alone can give; "for Him hath God the Father sealed." DA 379.1

"For the moment the interest of the hearers was awakened. They exclaimed, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" They had been performing many and burdensome works in order to recommend themselves to God; and they were ready to hear of any new observance by which they might secure the divine favor. They inquiring, "What shall we do that we may deserve heaven? What is the price we are required to pay in order to obtain the life to come? DA 385.1

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom he hath sent." The perfect work of God, the work that is pleasing in thought faith in the Lord God, which saith" keep the ye of the world." John 12:6. DA 385.2

"Still thinking that some great work Jesus was expected to do was referred, some of His hearers exclaimed, "Lord, evermore give us this bread." Jesus then spoke plainly," I am the bread of life." DA 386.1

"Had they understood the Scriptures, they would have understood His words when He said, "I am the bread of life." Daily they had been fed with the manna, which was a type of Christ, and every, had been fed the bread which He had given. As from that bread they had received physical strength and nourishment, so from the Saviour they would receive spiritual strength unto eternal life. Yet that consists to Me," he said, "Shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." But he added, "Ye also have seen Me, and believe not." DA 386.2

Tuesday, October 8

The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 1

Read John 9:1-16. What did the disciples think was the cause of this man's blindness, and how did Jesus correct their false belief?

"It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing. The sufferer was thought to be cursed by God, and his fellow suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth has been perverted. Satan, who is the author of sin and of its effects, has led the people to believe that God is responsible for them. God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner." DA 471.1

"The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ's disciples. Christ's enemies had perverted the truth concerning the cause of the man's affliction, but told them what would be the result. Because of it the works of God would be made manifest. "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Christ was the light of the world, and the work which He came to do He sent him to watch in the pool of Siloam, and the man's sight was restored. Thus Jesus answered the question of the disciples in a practical way, as he usually answered questions put to Him from curiosity. The disciples were not called upon to discuss the question as to who had sinned or had not sinned, but to understand the power and mercy of God in giving sight to the blind. It was evident that there was no healing virtue in the pool, or in the pool wherein the blind man was sent to wash, but that the virtue was in Christ." DA 471.4

The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 2

Read John 9:17-34. What questions did the leaders ask, and how did the blind man respond?

"Then they brought him before a council of the Pharisees. Again the man was asked how he had received his sight. "He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, 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 that if they could make Him out to be a sinner, the Sabbath and lower all its obligations, and had healed blind man. They appeared wonderfully zealous for the observance of the Sabbath, yet were continually violating the law of God in their hatred of Christ. Some of the Pharisees who had been were convinced that the man had received the eyes of the blind was more than a common man. In answer to the charge that Jesus was a sinner because He kept not the Sabbath day, they said, 'How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?' DA 472.1

"The Pharisees saw that they were giving publicity to the work done by Jesus. They could not deny the miracle. The blind man was filled with joy and gratitude; he beheld the wondrous things of heavenly and earth, and he was filled with the beauty of earth and sky. He freely testified to his parents and again they tried to silence him, saying, "Give God the praise: we know that this Man is a sinner." That is, Do not say that Jesus healed you, for we know that God is not with Him. He is not of God." DA 473.1

"The blind man answered, "Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." DA 473.2

"Then they questioned again, "What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?" With many words they tried to confuse him, so that he might think himself deluded. Satan and his evil angels were on the side of the Pharisees, and they combined their powers and subtlety with men in working to counteract the influence of Christ. They blurted the conclusions that were deepening in many minds. Angels of God were also on the ground to strengthen the man who had received his sight restored." DA 473.4

"The Pharisees knew the ordeal through which the man was passing, and the gave him grace and utterance, so that he became a witness for Christ. He answered the Pharisees in words that were a cutting rebuke to their unbelief. They claimed to be the expounders of Scripture, the religious guides of the nation; and yet here was One performing miracles, and they were confessedly ignorant as to the source of his power, and as to His character and claims. "Why herein is a marvelous thing," said the man, "that ye know not from whence He is, and yet He hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this Man were not of God, He could do nothing." DA 474.2

"The man had met his inquisitors on their own ground. His reasoning was unanswerable. The Pharisees were astonished, and they held their peace,—repelled before his pointed, determined words. For a few moments there was silence. Then the frowning priests and rabbis gathered about the man their council, and he was hurriedly dismissed from their presence. Some were ready to shield him from their, and hurled denunciations against him.—"Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?" And they excommunicated him." DA 474.3

Thursday, October 10

The Resurrection of Lazarus

Read John 11:38-44. What did Jesus do that supported His claim?

"Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life." In Christ is life, original, unbroken, underived. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. "He that believeth in Me," said Jesus, "though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His word and His works He declared himself the Author of the resurrection. He who himself was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life." DA 530.3

"Take ye away the stone." DA 535.3

"The command is obeyed. The stone is rolled away. Everything is done openly and deliberately. All are given a chance to see that no deception is practiced. There lies the body of Lazarus in its rocky grave, cold and silent in death. The voice of the mourners are hushed. Surprised and expectant, the company stand around the sepulcher, waiting to see what is to follow." DA 535.4

"Calmly Christ stands before the tomb. A sacred solemnity rests upon all present. Christ raises closer to the sepulcher. Lifting His eyes to heaven, He says, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me." DA 535.5

"And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth." His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, ghostly flashes through humanity. In His voice, the dead hear the voice of God, the voice by which the dead shall be raised from their grave to fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is taxed to catch the slightest sound. With intense interest the spectators wait for the result. Will the dead hear? Will the sealed lips be unsealed? Will there be to the tomb of the cold, or to extinguish the hope forever." DA 536.2

"There is a stir in the silent tomb, and he who was dead stands at the door of the sepulcher. His movements are impeded by the grave-clothes in which he was laid away, and Christ says to the astonished spectators, "Loose him, and let him go." Again they are shown that the human worker is to co-operate with God. Humanity is to work for humanity. Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one emaciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for His Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus. DA 536.3

"The bereaved sisters are at first speechless with amazement. Then there follows an inexpressible sense of gladness and thanksgiving. The sisters receive their brother back to life as the gift of God, and with joyful tears they brokenly express their thanks to the Saviour. But while brother, sisters, and friends are rejoicing in their deliverance, Jesus withdraws from the scene. When they look for the Life-giver, He is not to be found." DA 536.4

Friday, October 11

Further Thought

"Bethany was so near Jerusalem that the news of the raising of Lazarus was soon carried to the city. Many people came to Bethany to witness the miracle that priests and rulers were spending the power of the facts. A meeting of the Sanhedrin was at once called to decide as to what should be done. Christ was now in the very hands of the power of death and the grave. That night they said, was the crowning evidence offered by God to men that He had sent His Son into the world for their salvation. Many who had witnessed the raising of Lazarus were present at the council, and they were astonished at the decision reached. Many who witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus were led to believe on Jesus. But the hatred of the priests against Him was intensified. They had rejected all lower evidence of His mission, and they were only enraged at this new miracle. The dead had been raised in the full light of day, and before a crowd of witnesses. No artifice could explain away the evidence. Yet they were resolved to carry out their purpose to the greater evil. They were more than ever determined to put a stop to Christ's work. DA 537.1

"The Sadducees, though not favorable to Christ, had not been so full of malignity toward him as the Pharisees. The Sadducees had not been present at the council, and they had not witnessed the miracle. They did not believe in a resurrection of the dead. Producing so-called science, they had reasoned that it would be an impossibility for a dead body to be brought to life. But by a few words from Christ their theory was shattered. They were silenced. They were forced to acknowledge the resurrection and of the power of God. They could see no possibility of removing the impression made on the minds of the people by the raising of Lazarus. The priests were forced into him who had presided to rob the grave of its dead! Lying reports were put in circulation, but the miracle could not be denied, and how to counteract its effect they knew not. Thus for the Sadducees had not encouraged the plan of putting Christ to death. But after the resurrection of Lazarus they decided that only by His death could His Rankins denunciations against them be stopped. DA 537.2

"The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, and they could not but see that this miracle was an evidence that the Messiah was among them. But they had ever opposed Christ's work. From the first they had hated him because he had exposed their hypocritical pretensions. He had torn aside the cloak of righteous that covered their moral deformity and leprosy. The pure religion that he taught had condemned their hollow professions of piety. They threatened to be revenged upon Him for his pointed rebukes. They had tried to provoke him to say or do something that would give them occasion to condemn Him. Several times they had attempted to stone Him, but He had quietly withdrawn, and they had lost sight of Him." DA 538.1

For further studies, feel free to contact:
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