

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — John 13:4-17

LOVE AND HUMILITY

Golden Text—By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another.—*John 13:35.*

In all Christ Jesus' work we find love and humility to be very outstanding. Although He brought great hope to people and was to make the great sacrifice of His life, still He was the most humble person who ever walked this Earth. He could very easily have taken a prominent role and put to shame all the rulers of His day, but that wasn't what our Heavenly Father sent Him to do.

The disciples had been with Christ Jesus for about three years, listening to and learning from His parables to the people, and His private talks with them when he explained the hidden meanings of all He taught. They were being prepared to spread those Teachings to people everywhere. Christ Jesus heard their conversations and listened to their questions about who would be the greatest among them. He must now give them a clearer understanding of His mission and their own, for the time was rapidly approaching for His departure from them.

After they had eaten supper one evening, Christ Jesus arose and, wrapping a towel about Himself, filled a basin with water and began washing the disciples' feet. Although this was customarily done by servants as an indication of courtesy and respect, not one of the disciples thought of doing it, even though they had no servants. In doing so, Christ Jesus "took upon himself the form of a servant." By doing this humble task and saying to His disciples, "What I do, you don't know now, but you shall know later," He was giving them an example of what they should do for

others. It wasn't easy for the disciples to understand the need for humility, although Christ Jesus said: "He who would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all."

It is all very well to do something and be praised by those who see or hear of what we've done. The word gets around and others come with their praise, so it gets to be a "big thing." The little things we do for others, silently and unnoticed, however, are the true test of our humility. Perhaps we can help an elderly lady to cross the street, or speak to a new classmate at school. Perhaps we can give a hand or take some food to a new neighbor who is busy getting settled. Sometimes just a smile or a cheery "hello" to a passerby on the street may be helpful. There are many other ways that we will think of when the occasion arises. The observant person will notice what needs to be said, done, or even thought.

Most important of all are thoughts of goodwill, kindness, and cheerfulness. By our very presence we may bring to others those worthwhile things which make life more pleasant for everyone around us. Not only that, but we ourselves shall find that we not only feel better, but also get far more accomplished in our daily lives by thinking and acting in harmony with Christ Jesus' way of love and humility.

Let us see what else we can do to live in this way.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Compassion*

The great Beings above mankind in evolution are living in harmony with the laws of Nature, while many people on this Earth are not. These laws are mighty forces flowing throughout the Universe with a rhythm some-

what like the rhythms of great music. The Higher Beings are always in tune with these glorious rhythms. Their thoughts and activities create harmony, order, and beauty, while mankind is mostly *out* of tune with the cosmic rhythm. This causes our thoughts and activities to fill our world with discord, disorder, and ugliness.

We can't nullify the Laws of Nature, but we can break ourselves against them. From the very beginning our great spiritual Teachers have tried to get this truth across to us. The Ten Commandments, given through Moses in the early stages of our mental development, were warnings against doing things that would hurt us. At that time, only warnings could be given us because we were unable to understand anything about the marvelous results possible by living in tune with those great laws.

When Christ Jesus came with His message of Love (Compassion) He showed us how to free ourselves from the terrible confusion we brought into the world by our ignorance and stubbornness. We are all equally guilty and owe it to the world to do our part in changing bad conditions—beginning with ourselves and our own lives.

All people are developing their hidden powers and climbing the road of evolution by reaping the results of actions in past lives—good or bad. When we see someone, either sowing evil or reaping the results of evil sown in the past, our first impulse or thought must be to give all the help we can, either by word or deed, if that is possible. If not, then we can *always* send a strong, good thought to strengthen the Higher Self of that person and help him to gain victory over the wrong conditions, whatever they may be.

Jupiter, as the messenger from Pisces, enriches and improves our feelings so that the problems and sorrows of other people become just as important to us as our own problems. It isn't possible for us to have compassion un-

Many people regard the Crucifixion of Christ Jesus as a tragedy. In a limited, material sense, this is probably true. In the eyes of the world, a sublimely good man was killed at the behest of a mob exercising mob cruelty. He was forced to endure, uncomplaining, indignity and torture that were hardly in keeping with the message of love and brotherhood that He had come to teach. Even though, at the Resurrection, Christ gave proof of having "conquered death" and instilled new hope into the hearts of all who believed in Him, the agony of the Crucifixion remains, in the minds of many, a heartlessly imposed tragedy.

Yet, the Crucifixion was necessary. Christ Jesus could not have died simply a "natural death" and still have been able completely to fulfill His mission. It was necessary that His blood (part of the physical vehicle) flow in order that the Christ could, by this means, enter into the Earth itself to become our Indwelling Planetary Spirit. In this way the tremendous spiritual power of Christ passed into the center of the Earth. The Christ Light shone through the Earth and everything upon it. The Earth and its atmosphere were then cleansed and purified.

The Christ Light continues to shine for the purification of the human race. This power increases each year when the Christ again enters the Earth. Thus, slowly but surely, every person that draws upon the Christ Light is purifying himself and increasing the love and fellow-feeling which will eventually bring about universal brotherhood.

We see, then, that although the fact of the agony and Crucifixion of Christ Jesus was not, and is not, pleasant to think about, it is not, when viewed in spiritual terms, so tragic as it is generally considered to be. It is, instead, the beginning of a great gift for humanity—a gift

which will continue to be given for a long time to come.

Christ Jesus' words from the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," are also more than simply a prayer that God will forgive the mob for demanding His death. These words show Christ Jesus' understanding that mankind at that time had no idea of the real reason for His Crucifixion. Most men, even today, do not know this. Christ Jesus was not crucified "merely" that He might "rise again from the dead" and thus prove the fact of immortality. He was crucified, as we have seen, that the Christ might be enabled to enter the Earth to become our Indwelling Planetary Spirit, and thus continue to give of Himself year after year—century after century—until humanity at last, with the help of His sublime Christ Light, has developed its spiritual powers to the extent that it will no longer need the help of an Indwelling Planetary Spirit.

The more we think about all of this, and of the sacrifice that Christ made and is making for our sakes each year, the more we realize our responsibility to avail ourselves as much as possible of the Light that He is giving us in abundance. The more we live in accordance with His Teachings, setting aside our selfish interest and trying to do our work in the world as best we know how, the more we will be able to take advantage of His great gift and strengthen ourselves in His service.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Courage*

Many people believe courage to be a very rare trait, and they believe that they must work hard to acquire it. This is a false notion, however. There is courage latent within everyone. True, courage grows through use, but

it does not have to be brought in from anywhere. We all have it deep within us, to start with, and all that is necessary for us to do is to cast fear aside. Our courage, then, will be very evident.

Many people, for instance, are afraid to speak before large groups of other people. When among friends and acquaintances, however, they can speak intelligently and happily about any number of subjects. It is simply fear that keeps them from doing the same in large gatherings. When circumstances make them force this fear aside and address large groups anyhow, they are often amazed that they were able to do so well.

A wise man once said: "Do the thing and you will have the courage." He knew that courage is always there, and that it is only necessary to call upon it. If we know that there is a job to be done and devote our thoughts and energies to doing it, at the same time pushing aside all thoughts of ourselves or about how hard the job may be, we will find that we have the courage to go ahead and accomplish.

Fear is the element within us that keeps courage hidden and makes us think we have none. Fear is really a form of selfishness. We are afraid to speak in front of other people because we think they might laugh at us or criticize us. Sometimes we are afraid to stand up for what we believe is right for the same reasons. In other words, we are so busy thinking about how people will react to us or what they will say about us that this becomes the most important thing in our minds. The job that needs doing, or the words that need saying, suddenly become less important to us. Thus, if we stop thinking about ourselves, and concentrate instead on what needs doing, we will find we have the courage that the problem requires.

Sometimes we can help dispel fear simply by having good posture! If we stand up straight, head up, shoulders squared, breathing normally, and with smiles on our faces, fear cannot take the hold that it does if our shoulders are hunched over and we slouch away, trying, somehow, not to be seen.

Prayer, too, is a great asset in doing away with fear and bringing our courage to the fore. If we are sure that what we are about to do, or should do, is the right thing, and ask for the help of the Higher Powers who are always there to guide us, we will be given the help we need.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Daniel 6:5-28 & 1:3-21

DANIEL'S COURAGE

Golden Text—Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the Lord.—*Psalm 31:24.*

“Daniel, are you all right? Has your God protected you from the lions’ mouths?” So spoke King Darius the morning after Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den. Daniel answered, “O King, live forever. The God whom I serve has sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me.” The King was overjoyed after his sleepless night of fasting in concern over Daniel’s life. When he came out of the lions’ den, Daniel was found unharmed. Then the King made a decree, “Men in my kingdom shall fear the God of Daniel: for he is the living God. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel was thrown into the lions' den because he failed to worship the King. Some people told the King of Daniel's disobedience, at the same time reminding the King of his unchangeable laws. Much as he liked and appreciated Daniel's fine work as a governor, the King was forced to punish him.

Quite a while before that, Daniel and three friends said to their overseer, "Let us eat only grain rather than the meat and wine from the King's own kitchen." After a ten-day trial, they proved far superior physically and mentally than those who ate otherwise, and were allowed to continue their vegetarian diet.

These events are surprising when we understand that Daniel and his people were actually prisoners of war, having been taken in conquest from their country, and now living in a foreign country among idol worshipping people. It took great courage to continue in God's commands as they had been taught in their homelands.

In later years, Daniel became one of the great prophets of his time. Even today, the Bible book of Daniel is thought to pertain to our present time of unrest and confusion, with people forgetting to worship God as their Heavenly Father. You will find the Book of Daniel very interesting reading. We suggest this week you take time to read about some of the very unusual events recorded in it.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Co-ordination*

Aries has rulership over the brain, one portion of which has been referred to as the old or ancient brain, tracing its ancestry back about 100 million years. The medical

name for it is hypothalamus. It is located on the underside of the brain area, being about 1/300 of its size, and about in the center of the head.

The brain, with a highly developed sense of hearing, smelling, seeing, tasting, and feeling, and with great nerve connections within the nervous system, has a richer supply of blood than any other part of the body. This allows it to carry on its great work without the person realizing what is being done. Its chief duty is to keep balance throughout the body, warning other areas of body and brain when their help is required, also balancing the nervous system and the pituitary gland. It is spoken of as the most wonderful computer in the world, also as the central power station from which all activities are directed. The brain is the organ through which the mind operates.

We have heard that "thought furrows (or makes grooves in) the brain" and that is actually true, for the gray matter folds over and over upon itself, with new brain areas being formed like library shelves one above another. When we wish to study a new language, we must make a new shelf. The Spirit can make new brain areas to carry out new duties, although that becomes more difficult as we grow older. There are large areas of the brain which are smooth and unfurrowed so that we may well believe we are not using those portions of our brain. This gives us an understanding of the way in which our brain may develop greater mental ability in the future. We can truly say the brain is man's most important instrument, making it of great importance that we bring those smooth areas under cultivation. The Life Spark, the true Self, in each one of us is striving through the Will to become manager of our power station and use the power to build a fine character and successful life.

Let us entertain thoughts of good-will to all mankind,

along with efforts to improve our mental ability along lines beneficial to others, as well as ourselves, in the choice of our life's work. Our diet too is of utmost importance, making it necessary that we avoid use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, and adopt a vegetarian diet. All of these are helpful in improving not only our brain, but also the entire person—physically, mentally, and spiritually.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Acts 10:1-5 & 9-16; 30-33 & 44-48

CORNELIUS AND PETER

Golden Text—Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.—*Acts* 10:3.

Cornelius was a Roman officer, of an Italian band, accustomed to having his commands obeyed. He was also a God-fearing man, as shown by his worship and prayers to God, his help to the poor, and his fasts.

One time, after fasting four days, Cornelius had a vision in which an Angel appeared to him, saying: "Cornelius, your prayer and help to the poor have come up for a memorial before God. Send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter." This Cornelius did the following morning.

As the men were drawing near to Joppa, Peter went up onto the housetop to pray. After awhile he became hungry, but instead of eating, he fell into a trance. He saw what appeared a large vessel lowered down in front of him. It was knotted in four corners. Within it were all kinds of four-footed animals, wild beasts, and creeping things, as well as birds. A voice said, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." Peter answered, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten

anything unclean or common." Again the voice spoke, "What God has cleansed, call not that common." This was repeated four times before the vessel was taken up again into heaven. The hidden meaning of all this is as follows: Peter being up on the housetop indicates that he was in a high state of spiritual awareness. Hunger meant that he sought greater understanding. The vessel knotted in four corners pertains to the mineral, plant, animal, and human life waves. The animals indicate the lower desires and passions we must learn to overcome.

When Cornelius' men brought Peter to his house in Caesarea, he greeted Peter with these words after having told of his vision: "Now we are all here present before God, to hear all the things commanded of God." Cornelius and his students wanted to overcome anything that prevented their better understanding of God's teachings.

Peter stayed with them several days, teaching and preaching the Gospel message of Christ Jesus. They were all baptized, with the Holy Spirit descending upon them, bringing greater understanding of all Peter taught them.

When Peter returned to Jerusalem and the Jews there learned that Gentiles or non-Jews had received God's word, there was considerable argument and discussion about it. Peter spoke up, saying: "Because God gave them the same gift that He gave us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, what was I, that I could stand against God?"

That settled the matter, and all glorified God, saying: "Then God has also granted unto the Gentiles repentance unto life." So we find that Peter was brave enough to carry the word of God to a strange people, even though he had never before associated with them. That marked the beginning of the mission of carrying Christ's message to all people, regardless of race, color, or belief, which continues to this very day.

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Deuteronomy 4:15-19

FIRST COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt have no other gods before me.—*Exodus* 20:3.

The first commandment demands our full allegiance to God alone! We must give Him first place in our lives for He is our spiritual Father as well as our God! To Him we owe life itself! He loves us and wants us to be His children. Do you think we act as though we are?

This commandment requires that we worship God and no one, and no thing, else. Daniel, as we know, refused to worship idols even though he was threatened with death. Many others have done the same down through the ages since then; some even gave their lives. Christ Jesus put God first in His own life to show us that we, too, should worship God above every *thing* and every *body*.

Today, we have many temptations to abuse our bodies by using such things as drugs, weed, glue, pot, and wrong foods. They ruin our health and confuse our thoughts so that we become unable to tell right from wrong. Likewise, there is the great need to choose our friends wisely, for false friends can draw us into situations leading us away from all we love and hold dear, while, at the same time, ruining our lives.

God, in His wisdom, has given us, through his messenger Moses, guidelines in the commandments, the obeying of which makes for happier living. Each one of us can make God's way of life a part of our everyday living but, as much as He loves us, God doesn't force us to do so, since we have free-will to make our own choices. We can ask Him, in prayer, to guide us into the right way. This

is a most serious decision to make—what will be yours?

FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for discussion on the Aries keywords of *Epigenesis, Initiative, Courage, and Coordination* in relation to SERVICE we were able to give during the past month.

GRADE IV — FIFTH SUNDAY

REVIEW

Lesson Suggestions for Taurus

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — HARMONY

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Determination*

Taurus is the great “power sign” of Venus, through which the creative fire, burning at the base of the spine, is by clean, high thinking and constructive living, gradually drawn up the spine to work with greater power in the brain, ruled by Aries. A study of the main keywords of Taurus will tell us how to tune into that power and reach a higher level. In following the voices of our Higher Selves, we gain more power to use in directing our lives.

The process of shifting and weighing the various things, qualities, and activities in which we're interested, to decide which to hold onto and which to discard, gives the opportunity for progress onward and upward to secure spiritual gains. *Harmony*, the highest spiritual keyword of the month, tells us that our thoughts, feelings, and outer actions must be brought into harmony with our ideals if those ideals are to be reached.

The mental keyword, *Determination*, tells us we are to make true *decisions* about our general plan of living and

the particular goal we hope to reach, following that course *steadily* without wavering. *Decisions* are vital; once we've chosen what is right for us, we find a peace and contentment nothing else can equal. Seeking that choice, through prayer, enables us to make the right decision.

Resolution, coupled with *determination*, is necessary. As our hearts are faithfully tuned to love of truth and right action, we keep climbing onward and upward, as represented by the central rod of the Caduceus, shown in Diagram 15 of *Philosophical and Astrological Drawings*.

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Ephesians 6:11-17

SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST

Golden Text—Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.—*Ephesians* 6:11.

Do you always carry out the desires and actions of people around you? We don't like to be different, and that is all right—some times. Going against what others suggest or want, just to be different, may mean we're completely self-centered, making it unpleasant for others. On the other hand, going along with other people may, at times, prove harmful. We shouldn't do so when they suggest doing something wrong; we must not do wrong just to be one of the crowd.

God doesn't want us to be different or separate from others, but does expect us to refuse to do what is against His Will. The sinful world will constantly be tempting us to forget God and go along with evil.

One reason we're studying the commandments is to get

a broader understanding of what it is God would have us do. Those commandments apply just as well now as they did when Moses gave them to his people long ago in accordance with God's instructions. Today we seem to have so many temptations to think, say, and do things harmful to our bodies, but most of all to our Real Selves. That spark of God within us cannot grow alongside of them.

Let's see what some of these temptations are: saying there is no God and that we needn't keep His commandments; smoking, using intoxicating liquor or dope; eating too much; using bad language; cheating, falsifying, and stealing; selling or reading harmful books; misusing the body by adultery.* You can perhaps think of other ways.

We speak of "the devil" as our tempter. He is a "fallen Angel" (also called Lucifer) who sinned against God by wanting to become greater than He, and tries to get others turned against God. We can overcome these temptations by praying every day for the strength to do so and by reading God's word, the Bible, daily. Temptations may also be banished by thinking of the Charm Words or Magic Keys of Love, Peace, and Joy and sending them in thought to others who also need help in overcoming temptations.

*See *Scorpio*, Fourth Sunday—Eighth Commandment.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Constancy*

Constancy is essential to the fulfillment of our good ideas and plans. Another word for constancy is steadfastness. Constancy means sticking to our resolutions in spite of distractions or obstacles. It means persisting in what we have set out to do until it is finished. It means con-

forming to our principles even though we might occasionally find it easier or more pleasant not to do so. Constancy means remaining true to our causes and loyal and steadfast in our affections.

When a person is constant in his love for a pet, that pet grows to trust and love him and is a pleasant, likable animal. A dog is constant in its love for its master, no matter if the master is rich or poor, and no matter what kind of personality he may have. Once the dog gives its love, it gives it permanently. That is constancy.

If a person shows himself to be constant, he acquires a reputation for trustworthiness. If he shows himself inconstant in one thing, however, there is considerable likelihood that he will be inconstant in other things. Thus, he is not considered likely to be trustworthy. Constancy speaks for itself. People can see for themselves without being told whether or not it is one of our attributes.

Constancy is a mature trait, scarcely noticeable among young children.

Think, for a moment, of the constancy of the universe. Suppose the Sun could no longer be depended upon to shine, or that oxygen could no longer be depended upon to form water by combining with hydrogen. Suppose that God could no longer be depended upon to love each of His children. We would be faced with calamity if any one of these suppositions suddenly were to come true.

Our constancy in our small affairs is just as important, in its own way, as is the constancy of God and the Higher Powers and the spiritual forces in their areas of activity.

It is, of course, possible to be wrongly constant, too. Some people, we know, are constant to principles of evil or to the pursuit of unworthy desires. This, naturally, is wrong.

To be constant in the right way, in the way that is ac-

ceptable to God, we must follow the rules of right living and be constant to them. We must put our spiritual considerations and Teachings uppermost in our minds and separate ourselves from all that is not essentially good. In this way we will be true to our principles and beliefs, to our resolutions and responsibilities, and to our friends and neighbors. Most of all, we will be true to ourselves.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Acts 4:32-37 & 1-11.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

Golden Text—Those that believed were of one heart and one soul: neither said any of them that any of the things they possessed were their own; they had all things in common.—*Acts 4:32.*

Many people think that communal living, which we hear so much about these days, is something new, but actually it was known at the time when Christ Jesus walked among people on our Earth. Today we shall talk about one of those early groups who worked together so beautifully after Christ Jesus ascended into heaven. They enjoyed harmony and plenty of everything because all shared everything they had. That is, all except two people: Ananias and his wife Sapphira. Really, it was not so much their lack of sharing as it was their failure to tell the truth about what they were giving to the group.

When Ananias gave the disciple Peter his money, Peter asked, "Ananias, why did you keep back part of the price of the land, and lie to the Holy Ghost? The land you had was your own to do with as you wished, even after it was sold, it was still in your own power. Why did you lie about what you received, not to man but to God?"

When he heard this, Ananias was so overcome with the shock of being discovered that he fell over dead. All who saw what happened were very fearful.

Shortly after Ananias had been carried out and buried, Sapphira, his wife, arrived. Peter asked her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She answered, "Yes, for so much." Peter then asked, "How is it you agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them who buried your husband are at the door and will carry you out." Sapphira also fell dead at Peter's feet. The same young men carried her out, burying her beside her husband. Great fear came upon all who saw this, and later, upon those who heard about it.

As we know, all Bible happenings have hidden meanings, and this is no exception.

Ananias and Sapphira, by their deceitful action, upset the fellowship and unity of the group which had been working together, and this was not to be allowed to continue.

All of us are faced with many tests, and must pass them, before we are fitted to learn what great things are possible for those truly devoted to Christ's teachings and seeking to carry them out in their own lives. We must be absolutely honest with one another as well as with God. Our lower nature must be brought under complete control. This may be done through prayer for strength to pass the tests we meet from day to day. Are we willing to do our very best to overcome every temptation?

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD — *Speech* (Larynx)

Did you know the larynx is the organ of speech? It is

the upper portion of the windpipe—a boxlike formation of cartilage and muscle containing the vocal cords.

There are birds like the mynah, parrot, raven, and starling which can utter words, but have no understanding of their meaning. For us, the gift of speech is very precious, because with it we can express our thoughts. How wasteful we are apt to be in its use, uttering silly or hurtful words with this God-like power of ours!

Let us think about the many uses there are for the human voice, from the grunt of the savage to those power-filled words of Christ when He said, "I say unto thee, Arise!" (Discussion) As we become aware that the larynx is an organ for creating conditions around us through the power poured out with our voice, we feel ashamed of those foolish words we so often utter, which produce trouble in our environments. If used destructively, words bring about destruction; if used for good, they will bring good into our lives as well as into the lives of those around us.

Let us always be careful of the words we speak, so that they may prove helpful to people at all times. Let us remember the words of Christ Jesus: ". . . every idle word that men speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment." That means all the words we utter, whether they be in kindness, helpfulness, anger, hatred, or bitterness. What a great responsibility is ours!

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matt. 5: 2-12

ASCENDING THE LADDER OF LIFE

Golden Text—Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.—*Matt.* 28:20.

The days following the glorious Resurrection of Christ, celebrated last month, marked a period of instruction for

His disciples in many deep truths for their future work. At the same time, Christ worked with mineral, plant, animal, and mankind, as well as the Race and Group Spirits. His great mission helped not only the beings on this Earth, but the Angels and Archangels, especially those who had fallen under the influence of Lucifer. It also helped the stragglers, who had dropped behind the rest of their group.

We may get a better understanding of His mission by studying every single parable and action of Christ Jesus. This will help us in our steps upward on the Ladder of Life. Those steps are beautifully summarized in the Beatitudes—a most wonderful portion of His Sermon on the Mount. They contain Christ Jesus' message of Love, including the commandments of the Old Testament. Here are some of the lessons they contain:

1) We need a spirit of humility. That is part of Christ's power to control every situation.

2) When we put into practice His message of Love we gain peace of mind, for Love is the greatest power in overcoming. "Perfect Love casts out fear." Faith and Hope are contained in Love.

3) Meekness or gentleness attracts and increases. "He who loses his life for my sake shall find it."

4) We should put God first, and have as our goal "all for one and one for all," aiming to make real our ideals.

5) As we radiate mercy, love, and kindness, we show our understanding of "as we sow, we reap." Jupiter's rays of mercy and compassion attract those very same benefits.

6) The key to heaven is purity, living a life pure in words and actions. Thus do we grow in understanding of what life is all about.

7) As the divine Spark within continues to grow, we

shall have perfect peace in heart and mind, resulting in harmony.

8) Here Saturn teaches us the lessons we need to become the kind of people in whom is demonstrated the Law of Love.

9) Others may not always understand what we seek to do in our efforts toward self-control, which we need, for "He that controls himself is greater than he that controls a city."

10) As we blend the highest qualities of all the planets, we learn compassion. The Law of Love must be written within the hearts of all mankind, the Love which humanity has not yet learned to live because it does not understand that Love is the greatest spiritual power. Christ Jesus showed this in His every deed while on the Earth.

He explained to His disciples that they, too must learn to build into their lives humility, sympathy, compassion, and purity, together with an intense desire for right-usefulness, with bravery, and with courage, if they would do His will of spreading the message of "good-will" to all mankind. We also need to develop these qualities to become true helpers in making our Earth a better place for all people.

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Exodus 20:4-6.

SECOND COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . . thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.—*Exodus 20:4-5.*

"What must I do to gain eternal life?" asked the young man. "Give up all you have and follow Me," said Christ Jesus.

That is what this commandment means, for possessions—love of home, persons, animals, plants, and things, and pride in what we know—all weigh us down and draw us away from God. It is easy to put many things before God, to the point where we worship them instead of Him.

Whenever we attribute more power to any *one* or any *thing* than to God, we are making a graven image or idol above God. It is strictly forbidden to make a material likeness of God, for there is nothing we could possibly make that would give a true or real idea of Him. That is what is meant by "*image* of anything in heaven above, or earth beneath, or in water under the earth." God is Spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Love draws us to God, when the heart is full of love and adoration toward Him.

Love must express itself in beauty. *True art* is adoration of God and, because He knew this, God gave us the second commandment as a warning. Artists' creations must not become graven images or idols before which we bow down. We may admire, enjoy, and like something, and that is an expression of God. We must not, however, place it ahead of God in any way.

There are very great dangers which can so easily draw us into idol worship. There are many powerful temptations nowadays with their beauty and charm. Their false promises, however, bring nothing but trouble and sorrow. We need to become pioneers for God by having our hearts full of love for *Him*, not for things which can be destroyed. We can put our relationship to every person and thing to this test: "Will this make me a better helper in doing my share of God's work?"

The FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for dis-

ussions on the TAURUS keywords of *Harmony, Determination, Constancy, and Speech* in relation to *Service* we were able to give during the past month.

Lesson Suggestions for Gemini

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — PERCEPTION

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Reason*

To “tune in” on the Cosmic Ray of Gemini and get our “living lesson” for the month, we need to think about the *mind* and how it works, so that we may learn to use our minds to the best advantage. The message of Mercury tells us plainly what we are meant to do with this newest and finest vehicle of ours. “Look! God’s truth is everywhere!” We are to look intelligently at what is going on about us in Nature and in the world of men, and try to understand the meaning of what we see.

The mind plays much the same part in our being as the mirror of the great telescope plays in its mechanism. In our mind, as in a mirror, is reflected all that goes on within our field of vision. Just as the astronomer uses the pictures reflected in the mirror of the telescope as the basis of his study of the laws of Nature, so the Ego, the Higher Self, must use the pictures of the outer world reflected in the mind as the basis of its study of the Cosmic laws, which are the laws of life.

If the astronomer let the pictures of the heavens pass across the mirror day after day, making no effort to study or understand them, and if the scientists in other fields made no use of the material presented to them by their senses, science would soon come to a standstill and the

world's progress would cease. In the same way, our evolutionary progress depends upon the effort we make to understand and use the facts of life which are continuously mirrored in our minds.

The keywords of Gemini all have to do with ways of using the mind to the best advantage. The big keyword of the month, the spiritual keyword, is *Perception*, which means seeing truly and clearly the pictures reflected in the mind. If these are only *half* seen, the knowledge gained from them will be inaccurate and of little value.

Reason, the keyword for this week, is the means by which we compare one fact with another and see the relationship between them. The study of mathematics is one of the best ways of training the mind to reason correctly, but we should be on the watch at all times to find the relationships between other things besides numbers. For example, there are the causes that lie behind the things that happen to us.

The good detective is one who has learned to see clearly everything he looks at, and to trace the hidden relationships between facts that seem, to the untrained mind, to have no connection whatever with each other. The whole life of the scientist is one given to discovering the reasons for what he sees all about him in Nature. The highest type of all is the Initiate who points the light of the Spirit through the mind to find the true relationship between all things in heaven and earth.

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Mark 10:13-16

THE MAGIC KEYS — PART ONE

Golden Text—And He took them up in His arms, and put His hands upon them, and blessed them.—*Mark* 10:16.

Today we talk about *Love, Peace, and Joy*, which we like to speak of as the Magic Keys, because they are the most precious things in the world, having come from God through His Son, the Christ. We, as God's children, may make them a part of our lives and, in so doing, be blessed as were the children by Christ Jesus when He was here on Earth.

These Keys are kept in our hearts, always waiting to be used, but they *must be used* if they are to be kept bright and glistening. The more they are used, the brighter and stronger they become. *Love* is largely a golden color; *Peace* bluish in color, while *Joy* is of pink hue.

These words are called Magic Keys because they work like magic. No one can gather even the tiniest little thread for that beautiful "Golden Wedding Garment," which people speak of and try so hard to weave, without using the Key of Love. But if one uses the Keys, it is easy to gather many golden threads for his "Golden Wedding Garment."

Two thousand years ago, Christ Jesus came to our Earth to teach us how to use this Key of Love. He used it and is still using it. He was a Master, a Spiritual Teacher. So this Key is the Master's Key. Each person owns his body, which is his house, or "temple." This Key is yours—the master key. It is also a master key because it opens all doors. Love cures everything. The master (the owner of the house) likes to carry a key that will open all the doors of his house. This Key of Love then is the Master's Key and a master key.

When used, it opens the door of Love within; then Love pours out and fills every single part of us. We cannot then be cross, or say anything unkind, or quarrel; therefore we are peaceful. So, the Key of Peace will begin to open the next door and peace flows out. Because we are

loving and peaceful the last Key opens the door and Joy flows out.

What is Joy? Is it happiness? Laughter? No, it is more than that! To tell what real Joy is, let us first spell it. J-O-Y.

“J” — stands for Jesus — Christ Jesus, the Master of Love. He served by healing the sick and by teaching people how to be loving and happy. He never thought of Himself.

“O” — stands for others. He thought only of others and served them. We want to follow Him, so we should serve lovingly as He did. Then real Joy is earned by us and is ours.

“Y” — stands for *you*, and comes last. Real Joy comes to us only after we have served others with love and peace in our hearts. The Sunday School Watchwords are Love and Joy, serving lovingly and joyously, as Christ Jesus did.

Next week there will be more to tell about the wonderful Magic Keys. In the meantime, all during the week, keep thinking about these Magic Keys, and see how much happier you will be.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Adaptability*

The Keyword for this week calls for the wide-awake mind that can get its bearings quickly when meeting up with a new set of circumstances, going to work at once to make the best of those circumstances, whatever they may be. Our minds are still in an active stage of growth and by learning *now* how to use our mental powers correctly, we can mold that growing mind into something much finer and better than it would be otherwise.

All during this month we need to practice seeing clear-

ly everything we look at, to follow intelligently and carefully all the exercises in reasoning that come in school work. The patterns are now being set, and thought habits and study habits being formed today will determine the type of mental make-up in adult lives.

We suggest the use of our clear-seeing faculty to re-examine the circumstances at home, at school, at work, trying to find some way of bettering the present conditions or better adapting to conditions which cannot be changed. When discussions are conducted in a relaxed mood, with clear and open minds, each participant will be inclined to speak freely, permitting all to express their ideas and allowing each to have a share in the final decisions.

Adaptability involves willingness to meet others half-way in working out agreeable arrangements for the needs of all in matters under consideration. When our considerations are made in an atmosphere of harmony and understanding, we may be sure that happy solutions will readily be found suitable to all concerned, even though the problems may be new and strange.

This week, let us see how true we can be to the Higher Self. Let us always seek the right way for the good of all, and carry out faithfully any responsibilities placed upon us. That is a very high and lofty ideal, requiring great strength of mind and heart to live up to. However, with God's guidance we shall eventually do so. Let us remember to pray about it.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matt. 19:13-15

THE MAGIC KEYS — PART TWO

Golden Text—For of such is the kingdom of heaven.—
Matt. 19:14.

Today we talk about the reason for using colors on the Magic Keys. Consider the rainbow. The Sun shines through a cloud and through the raindrops still hanging in the air. The raindrops break the white light up into its many colors. Then they show as a circle of colors near the Earth. Because we are standing on the Earth, we cannot see the whole circle, but just part of it. The part we see is called the "bow." If we were up in an airplane we could see the whole circle of colors toward the Earth below.

If we take a prism, we can see that the glass does the same thing to the light that the raindrops do. Then we can see the many colors that are included within the white light.

Each Sunday in Sunday School we say, "God is Light." Light is made up of many colors, as we know. Christ is the Son of God. We can say that He is a Ray of that Light, the Golden Love Ray. Peace is the Blue Ray, and Joy is the Pink Ray.

Because we obey God's laws by loving God's way, peacefully and joy-fully, we have Joy. Picture yourself sending out Love, Peace, and Joy, especially to any of your friends who are ill or unhappy. At the same time pray in this manner: "God, our Heavenly Father, if it is Your will send Love, Peace, and Joy to——. Thank You, God."

When the keys are always in our hearts, just a little practice will start us working at the thought "Magic Keys" or "Love." A very important use of these Keys is made at night. After saying prayers and in bed, ready to sleep, think about these Keys, making them your last thoughts. Upon awakening the next morning, your first thought will be: "Love, Peace, and Joy." You will then be happy as all of us should be, for having so recently come from God and the heaven world.

Another important use of the Keys is made during the

day. When a playmate quarrels or is selfish, or fights, you can think the prayer silently, asking God, our Heavenly Father, to send Love, Peace, and Joy to the ones in trouble. If this is practiced continually, the thoughts come to mind instantly when needed. Ofttimes during the day something may happen which bothers you. It may be caused by children or adults, or be something seen or heard. It can be erased immediately by using the Magic Keys. The minute anything unpleasant happens is the very time to think the prayer. In the closing words, "Thank You, God," we learn to forgive and develop faith, because we leave the rest to God.

The Magic Keys keep tempers down and fists from flying, stop nightmares and bad dreams, and keep us well and healthy. They make the conscience (that still small voice within telling us when we do right or wrong) speak louder when we are tempted to do wrong.

Now that we know how very important the Magic Keys are, let us make them a part of our daily lives. In so doing, we make life happier and better for everyone around us, as well as for ourselves.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Proportion*

The parts of the body which the cosmic forces of Gemini helped us to develop are the lungs, the arms, and the hands, and the shoulders.

The function of the lungs is to remove from the blood stream the gaseous poisons it has collected from the tissues of the body, giving in exchange the oxygen from the outer air needed to keep these tissues alive and healthy. The lungs are unable to take the abuse that other organs can; polluted air and cigarette smoke are their greatest prob-

lems, because they paralyze the air cleansers (very tiny hairs) along air passages. As that irritation continues, a cough develops, acting only as a temporary life-saver. Later, however, there is increased difficulty in exhaling poisons from the system, causing impaired breathing and lung problems. If done in time, benefit can be derived from discontinuing smoking, substituting good food for bad, and engaging in general body exercise such as jogging and sports of various kinds to induce deep breathing..

There are great mysteries connected with this in-breathing of the substance that brings life to the body and the out-breathing of that which would bring death to it if retained. One lesson we learn from this process is *never* to hold in our minds ugly thoughts, which correspond to the poisonous gases in the body. We should cast them out as quickly as possible, replacing them with the pure, clean thoughts that give life and strength to the soul.

During the coming week, let us pay particular attention to the use made of hands, arms, and shoulders, and give thought to the many things which are made possible through the right use of these most flexible parts of our bodies.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Mark 4:1-20

THE SOWER

Golden Text—Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.—*Luke 11:28.*

Have you ever seen a man sowing seed over a field? Did he wear a large apron-like basket, tied around his waist, to

hold the seeds? As he threw seeds, did he swing his arm in a wide circle, allowing the seeds to filter between his fingers and be cast over a wide area? Those seeds could very well fall into poor soil where they could not grow well. That is how seed was sown at the time of Christ Jesus' life on Earth. Today we have machines capable of sowing over vast areas in a short time, although seeds may still fall in unprepared soil.

Christ Jesus told a parable about the sower and the seeds, and it is important for us to know the hidden meaning of this parable. In this parable the sower stands for someone, such as Christ Jesus Himself, who teaches spiritual Truths. The seed stands for the great power of Truth, which is always waiting for humanity to receive it. The ground refers to the types of people who hear the Truth.

According to the parable, "As the sower sowed, some seed fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up." Here, Christ Jesus was talking about one particular category of people. These are the people who eagerly listen to spiritual Truths, immediately make enthusiastic promises that they will lead a spiritual life, and yearn to meet the hardest tests that spiritual life can give. When the tests come, however, these people are suddenly no longer so enthusiastic. They are eager to return to their old worldly, selfish ways of doing things, or, perhaps, they think they have found a way of attaining spiritual development even faster. These people flit from one thing to another, but never carry out their promises and never make a foundation for themselves upon which they can really build spiritual progress.

Other seed, said Christ Jesus, "fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth; but when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it

withered away." Here Christ Jesus spoke of the people who have very good minds, but little love in their hearts, They learn and understand spiritual truths easily and can talk at great length about them and sound very intelligent. But when it comes to giving themselves in service, and to sacrificing themselves for other people—which is the only real way to make lasting spiritual progress—they cannot bring themselves to do so. They are too self-centered and selfish. The intellectual person can tell others how to live a spiritual life, but only the person whose heart has developed so that he himself is pure, unselfish, and compassionate can live a spiritual life himself.

Then, continued Christ Jesus, "some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit." Here, the thorns represent the lower desire nature. This is our selfish side; this is the side that urges us to use our ingenuity, our imagination, and our creative ability—or what we call our creative force—solely for our own selfish purposes. We all must learn someday to set aside all our selfish desires and to use our creative force for service and for the good of all. If a person misuses his creative force he does not make anything of himself in the spiritual sense—that is, his life yields no fruit. His life is, so to speak, "choked up" with the thorns of his lower desire nature which he has allowed to get control of his Higher Self. On the other hand, the fruit is the perfection of the tree, and the fruit trees are the most advanced members of the plant kingdom. In the same way, when our desire nature has been purified and we have learned to use our creative force selflessly, we become the "perfected fruit" of our own life-wave.

Finally, some of the seed "fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundred." Here, the good ground stands for the people who have united

their powers of the heart and the mind. When we know intellectually how to live the spiritual life and when we, at the same time, are so loving and compassionate and selfless that deep within our hearts we want to live that kind of life and no other, then we shall reach our greatest potential, do our best work in God's kingdom, and cause nothing but good to come from everything we think, say, and do.

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Deuteronomy 4:39-40

THIRD COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.—*Deuteronomy 5:11.*

There is tremendous power in the name of God, so much so that the Jewish people for centuries wouldn't even pronounce the name of the Lord. When writing it, they would leave out all the vowels, allowing only the unpronounceable consonants to remain. These people did not want to be found guilty of taking God's name in vain!

Libraries contain thousands of books, but not one out of a hundred includes a single sentence of power equal to the power of the name of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Through purity and prayer we learn the wisdom that is expressed through the proper use of words and hands. Then we know when to speak, when to be silent, when to give or withhold, using the right word at the right time.

You will notice that we relate this third commandment to the sign Gemini, which has rulership over the shoulders, arms, and hands. We may liken the shoulders to the power

to uphold—square, firm, powerful—as our solar system is upheld. Sometimes children ask, “How can God do so much without arms or hands?” The orbits of the planets around the Sun are like the arms of our Sun God upon whose extended power the planets travel safely and in glory. Our heavenly Father’s arms reach out to us, His children, in love and protection. Our arms also reach out to help those we love (as do our mothers’ loving arms). We can imagine Christ Jesus with outstretched arms saying to us, “Come unto Me all you that are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

At Mt. Eccelsia there is a beautiful painting of the Christ with His hands outstretched. From the finger tips of those hands are pointed streams of light, meaning power. They are the hands that give and give.

The hands declare the name of God by good works. Our hands are used for work of all kinds, but hands dedicated to the Name of God, and never mis-used, can become fountains of power, nourishing the weak, healing the sick, helping in any way possible.

Name some ways in which we can use our hands to help others.

The FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for discussions on the GEMINI keywords of *Perception*, *Reason*, *Adaptability*, and *Proportion* in relation to Service we were able to give during the past month.

Lesson Suggestions for Cancer

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — IMAGINATION

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Impressionability*

The “living” lesson under the Ray of Cancer is so deep and mysterious that it may be approached only in stillness.

Let us keep ourselves completely still as we discuss the lesson so each one of us may get all we possibly can about its meaning.

It is when the Sun enters Cancer that the Christ returns to the Father, to be nourished and refreshed after His year-long day. In doing this, He touches the highest point *He* is capable of reaching. Since He is our teacher, our pattern, we are to learn to do the same. A study of the keywords of Cancer and the message of the Moon, its ruler, will help us to do so.

These keywords are—*Imagination*, *Impressionability*, and *Sympathy*, and the message of the Moon is "Remember, Remember!"

Imagination, the primary keyword of the month, is the picture-making ability of the Spirit—our Higher Self. We know our minds thus far have been devoted almost entirely to reflecting the pictures and sounds of the *outside* world together with the impressions and feelings of the personality about its experiences in this outer world. The line of communication between the mind and the personality is like a broad well-traveled highway, while the line of communication between the mind and the Spirit is like a little path through the woods, all choked with underbrush and brambles.

It was part of the evolutionary plan that we should center our attention upon the outer world in order to learn about the laws governing it, while at the same time learning how to manage properly our *dense* body, *vital* body, and *desire* body.

Now the time has come when that little hidden path leading from the mind to the Spirit must be cleared so that all the knowledge we gained through experiences in the outer world may be used by the Spirit to carry us forward to the next great step in evolution. That step will open

our eyes to the worlds above the Physical World where we can see for ourselves the causes behind the things that happen in this world. We cannot get to the holy place within ourselves where mind and Spirit meet until we clear the path between them. To help us in this fascinating work, we need to make a new picture of the mind, different from any we have made before.

Our object is to shut out all thought pictures of the busy, restless outer world. To do so we think of the mind as a deep pool hidden away in the depths of a forest. The water is still, and very clear, reflecting perfectly every thought picture we create. There is always a heavenly stillness and peace in this secret place, but there is also something thrilling about it, for it is here that the messages of the Higher Self, the God within, are received. Truths undreamed of are reflected on the surface of that still, deep pool.

All great artists, scientists, inventors, leaders, and Initiates are distinguished because they have found the way to this secret place within themselves, to which God may flash His messages and where their grandest ideals may be worked out successfully under the direction of their Higher Selves. This is what *impressionability* means—being sensitive to the influence of spiritual beings higher than we are. When the Spirit—the real you—is able to feel intensely the messages that are constantly being sent from the higher worlds, he can then begin to translate these messages into forms in which they can be used by mankind. You may be wondering how you can become more impressionable to the higher forces, or perhaps you have already thought that it is by living the life of loving service to others—and that is right! The more of the two higher ethers we attract to ourselves, the more impressionable to the good forces we become.

Let us spend a few moments in silence with each one picturing in his mind the still, deep pool in the forest. Also, let us try, during the month of Cancer, to find a few quiet moments every single day to remember the picture we have made, and get the "feel" of it.

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — *Mark 4:30-32*

DIVINE SPARK OF LIFE

Golden Text—The seed should spring up and grow, he knows not how. For the earth brings forth fruit of herself.—*Mark 4:27-28.*

Within every living thing upon this Earth there is a Divine Spark of Life which no one has been able to duplicate, although many have tried. We have often referred to it throughout these lessons and none of us are surprised to hear it mentioned. Today we look at it a bit closer by comparing it with the mustard seed. When placed in the soil, the mustard seed is the tiniest of all seeds and yet, when grown, it reaches a great height, giving shade to birds resting under its branches. In the same way does that Divine Spark grow within each of us when we choose to do what is God's Plan for us.

We begin, as does the seed buried in the soil, without seeming to get anywhere, but little by little a gradual change takes place, similar to the seed breaking through the soil, looking up toward the Sun for more life. We seek to learn what Christ Jesus would have us do in what we learn here from week to week, for He is our Light and our Saviour. Each lesson has more to give in helping us better understand what life is all about. This enables us to meet the experiences we have daily at work, at school, or at play, and

better to understand the people we meet, because we realize that we are all God's children, whether grown or not. As brothers and sisters in a huge family, we begin by solving problems of "getting along" in our immediate family even before we start attending school. Of course, we don't realize that at the time, but it is true nevertheless.

Just how well we've been able to do so, is shown by our way of speaking to others, our actions toward them, and what we plan for the future. If we are kind and thoughtful, pleasant and helpful, and cheerful in greeting others, it shows that the Divine Spark within is growing. Our use of the Magic Keys of Love, Peace, and Joy helps more than we know to make faster growth possible. You see, the quicker we solve our daily problems, the more speedily we're going onward and upward to greater things in this life, and in all future lives also, for we keep climbing the Ladder of Life always.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Sympathy*

Sympathy is the ability to experience fellow-feeling for some one else—to put ourselves in his place, understand the sensations and emotions that he is going through, and to react kindly, lovingly, and helpfully toward him. Empathy, the vicarious intellectual experiencing of someone else's thoughts, feelings, and attitudes, is a component of sympathy.

Sympathy implies love, compassion, understanding, patience, and tolerance. It implies the desire to share the other person's burden. It implies the wish to take away pain and suffering wherever it is encountered, to help those who are struggling find their way back on the right path, and to share our own good fortune with those not similar-

ly blessed. Most of all, it involves the giving of self in whatever way may best assist another particular individual at that particular time.

One who is sympathetic to another either must have had a similar experience and thus be able to know what his brother is going through, or he must have sufficient human understanding and imagination to be able to sense the other person's emotions without actually having experienced them for himself.

There is a right way and a wrong way to show sympathy. Sympathy is not to be confused with pity, in which we feel sorry for someone else and commiserate with him but do not necessarily approach the situation from a positive point of view and do what we can to help him help himself overcome his problem. It is a mistaken kindness, if we find someone lamenting, to lament with him, echoing and perhaps magnifying his words of sadness or disgust, but doing nothing to improve his outlook. If we are truly sympathetic we will try to make him see the bright side of his trouble and encourage him to take steps to alleviate it.

It is also a mistaken kindness to try to take a situation away from a person and deal with it for him. We must all learn our lessons in this life, and if the suffering person is allowed to sit back and do nothing while someone else does away with his troubles, he will not have learned much. That is why, if we wish to be truly sympathetic, we must not only feel deeply within ourselves what the other person is going through, but we must also give him every encouragement, and material help if necessary, to start him on the way to helping himself.

Sympathy, one of the most powerful forces in the universe, will in time be responsible for the universal fellow-feeling among the men of all races which will constitute universal brotherhood.