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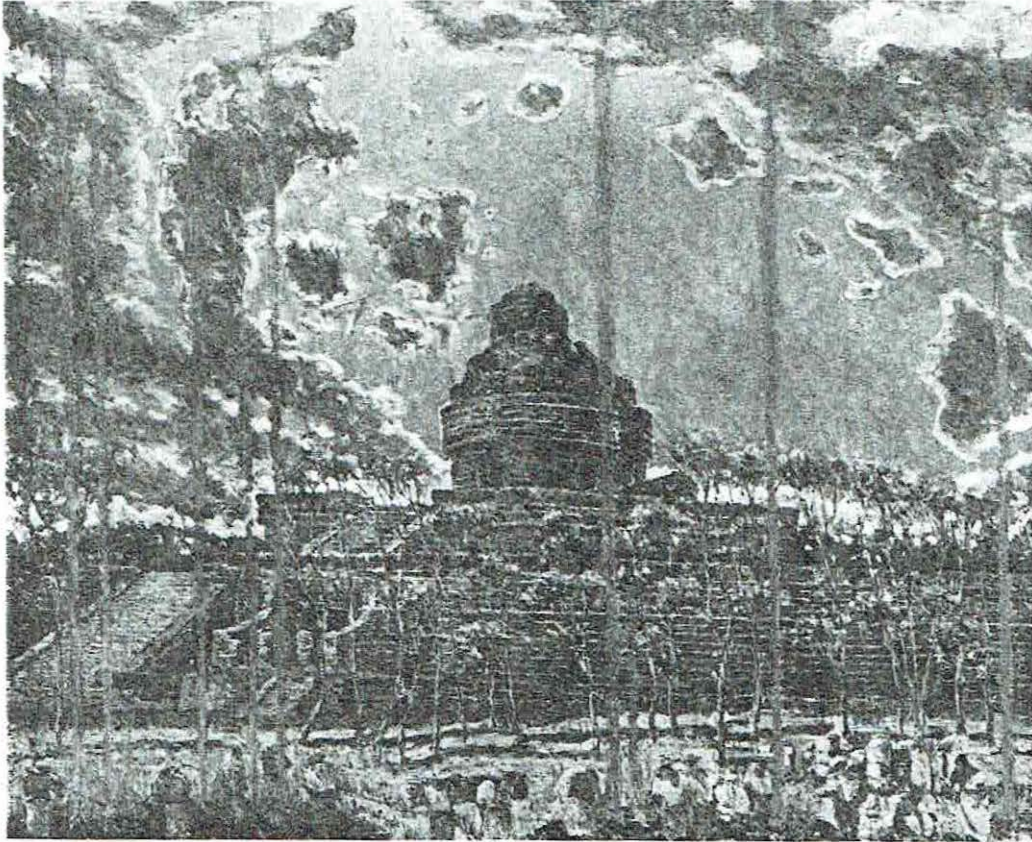
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THE "DO IT" LECTURES

MAYAN REVELATION

139

THE PRINCIPLE OF RECOVERY

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| I. THE CURE AT THE BETHESDA POOL | IV. HEALTH OF MIND |
| II. MADE WHOLE | V. HEALTH OF SPIRIT |
| III. HEALTH OF BODY | VI. HEALTH OF RELATIONSHIP |
| VII. IN THE DAY'S WORK | |

THE MAGIC WORD IS NOT HEAL BUT BELIEVE.

BELLOVED CENTURION:

I told you in our last lesson that the lesson to come, which is, of course, this current one, would be very important, and in the humble opinion of your instructor, it is of the utmost importance to you. It is important if you have a health problem; it is important if one of your loved ones or friends has a health problem; and it is equally important to those who are endeavoring to heal others through spiritual methods.

It contains a very special message for the Mayan Ministers who are earnestly seeking to perfect the ability to help others through healing. You will notice that this lesson dwells on the importance of the MIND.

I am very proud of the fact that one of our most renowned ministers was in my home recently and we discussed the contents of this lesson, as it was in preparation to go out to you, and he was particularly enthusiastic over the manner in which the subject of healing is treated here in this lesson. He was loud in his praise of the different approach, and he particularly liked our teaching that the mind is the first thing the Lord touches, and through it He makes the body whole. This minister is President of the Council of Churches here in San Antonio, and in a very short time he will be made a Bishop, so you, I am sure, can understand how greatly we appreciate his fine comments on the instruction which you are receiving as a Centurion in The Mayan Order. He felt that The Mayan Order had something to offer him. Naturally, this made your instructor very happy.

After all, we, here at Headquarters, desire most of all to give you, our members, the very finest in instruction. We want to help you in every way to better your life, and the lives of those around you. The hundreds of letters we are receiving every day from people in all parts of the world are living proof that we are accomplishing it, and we are proud.

We are living in an age of tension, a mechanized age, and in order that our bodies be kept healthy we must first learn to control our thoughts.

I am sure that you have discovered that more and more the public is recognizing the importance of spiritual healing. Our doctors do what they can through medicine, and then frankly say, "I have done what I can; the rest is up to God." There was a time, not very long ago, when people scoffed at the idea of healing. There was a time when people scoffed at my work; not so now. They used to say, "I don't believe in that sort of thing."; and now when our work is explained to them, more often than not they will say, "Yes, your work is exactly what people need today."

As a matter of fact, Dr. Leslie Weatherford, M.A., Ph.D., D.D., Minister of the City Temple of London, a pioneer worker in the field of pastoral psychology and author of many books, has made the following statement, "The Christian Church should recover her lost power of healing through intercessory prayer."

I believe that one of the most important qualities which should enter into the art of healing is that of love. It is my firm belief that small groups of loving, devout, praying people may rediscover in our day the energy which 2,000 years ago could make the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the lame to walk. God grant it.

And now as you study the following message, it is my heartfelt wish that you will be strengthened, not only in health, but in your ability to help others to health, and that God may touch you with His gentle love.



Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. John 5:8.

1. THE CURE AT THE BETHESDA POOL

Jesus was at Jerusalem attending a feast of the Jewish faith, to the observances of which He was always loyal. He was passing near the Sheep Gate where there was a pool called Bethesda, where the halt, blind, withered, and sick gathered every day. It was said that when the water of the pool was disturbed an angel of the Lord was there to heal anyone who would go into the water at that time.

There was a man lying helpless on a pallet near the pool who had been in that condition thirty-eight years. He had long been trying to claim the help of the angel of the pool, but others had crowded in ahead and no one had offered to help him to the water, so concerned was everyone for himself.

Jesus saw him and heard his story. His response was quick and sure. He uttered one sentence, which though short, contains three vital elements - "Arise, take up thy bed (or pallet), and walk." This man who had not done the like for so long might have answered that such a thing was impossible. But he did not. He tried, and found he could do it. Jesus would never tell anyone to do an impossibility without first changing it into a possibility. The sick man had found a healer whose power did not depend on troubled waters or the help of anyone in getting into them.

As an introduction to what we shall say later in this lesson, let us examine this command of Jesus to a sick man, separate the three parts of it, and try to understand what each of them means. We shall find that it is an outline of his healing of our infirmities also.

When the Master told the sick man to rise, he was directing him to do something he had not done in more than a generation. Of all the countless things He might have told him to do He deliberately chose the one thing he could not do. That is, he could not have done it if this life were like many consider it, but it isn't. We do not talk about impossibilities where the power of God is concerned, FOR THERE ARE NONE. No such word occurs in the vocabulary of faith. If the man had replied that to rise was impossible, he never would have discovered his new power, but would have fastened the condition on himself anew. Now let us notice what this man had to do when he found he could stand on his feet.

It was to pick up the pallet on which he had spent all those years of helpless

waiting. When a lost power is restored to us we must immediately remove all temptation to disregard it and go back to the condition from which we have been set free. This man had been led into a new phase of life, and he was to burn the bridges behind him and make relapse impossible. But what next?

He was told to walk. That is, he was to use the power he had repossessed, and act in accordance with the new condition in which he found himself. That completes our outline of any kind of recovery at the hands of the Great Physician. ACCEPT THE RESTORATION IN FAITH, REMOVE ALL POSSIBILITIES OF FALLING BACK INTO THE OLD HELPLESSNESS, AND START USING THE POWER GIVEN OR RESTORED. DO IT.

2. MADE WHOLE

The work of the Master with us is to make us whole, and in some way or other each of us needs it. The word whole and the word health come from the same origin and mean the same thing. To be healthy is to be complete, to be lacking in no phase, condition, or quality. One may be in the best of physical condition and yet be far short of whole or really healthy. He may be weak mentally, or deranged spiritually, or a misfit socially, or a failure in his work, and so not be really whole at all.

Who of us could claim that he lacks nothing in any way, that he is at his best at every point, that he rates a hundred percent in everything? Then who of us does not need the touch of the Great Physician?

It is a good sign that Medicine has now begun to move beyond the line of mere bodily conditions and material treatments. It recognizes that these physical conditions are sometimes of mental origin, or associated with emotional attitudes and situations, or the result of spiritual confusion or social maladjustments. When Medicine now is beginning widely to accept the metaphysical or spiritual point of view in diagnosis and treatment it certainly is time for us who have believed it all the while to cling to it and help to develop the fullest possible understanding and use of it, for we, as Mayans of long standing, have known this from the time we first became members and began our studies.

The first thing is fully to realize something at which we have already hinted - that health is not a matter of one condition or one kind of condition but of the whole life. Read again the story of the demoniac of Gadara in the Fifth Chapter of Mark. His condition was certainly extreme, but after Jesus had spoken peace to his troubled and mixed-up life he was found sitting clothed and in his right mind. He was then capable of readjusting himself to life in all its phases, and he had already begun to do so. Not just one phase of his long baffled life, but all of it, had been made well, whole, healthy, complete.

If you are lying helpless by some Pool of Bethesda, know that the Master comes that way every day. Even though you have been waiting a long time, you need wait no longer. Even though conditions may be such that you cannot avail yourself of the privilege the same way others do, know that this need not stand in your way. Even though you have to miss the ministrations of some other messenger of the Lord when he comes to trouble the waters, remember that there is One you do not need to miss - and is not He the greatest healer of them all?

Do not assume that this message is only for the palsied and the hopelessly ill, or even for the ill in body. It is for all the weaknesses and needs that impair our lives. Do they not all make us something less than whole? Whatever prostrates you, take it to Him, and RISE, take up your bed, and WALK.

When the Master comes to you and tells you what to do, DO IT. If it is something you could not do yesterday, you will find you can today. Then burn the bridge behind you, and go forward with the use of your blessing.

3. HEALTH OF BODY

Is it health of body you have lost or never had? Whatever you have done or are doing for the condition, do not fail to seek the aid of the Great Physician. Is it a great miracle you need? Remember that great miracles have resulted from His word and touch. Or is it some smaller condition that you have found baffling? Remember that no need is too small for His interest and help. He is fully equal to your need, whatever it is, provided you can contribute the necessary faith.

Remember that in the ministry of Jesus one question always stood between the need and the miracle. It was always this or its equivalent - "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" You see, the heavenly Healer does not so much heal you as to help you set up a healing condition. Faith is a kind of miracle push-button that establishes the contact. It releases powers which, though we cannot see them, are capable of doing amazing things, provided the faith is great enough, sure enough, steady enough, and positive enough.

This faith contact is what brings about our healing. That is clear from the fact that the Master Himself always insisted on it. The human physician depends on it too, though he may not always know it. He can do little for you unless you believe in him and his skill. No medicine can do more for you than your faith in it amounts to. The magic word is not "heal" but "believe".

So the Miracle-worker can and will help you, provided you generate enough faith to add your pole of power to His, enough that He can center it on your condition like a wonder-working ray or a selective radio-active substance, and thus bring about the needed recovery.

When in the silences He asks if you believe He is able to do this, He means that you must believe boldly, fully, definitely, and be willing to say so confidently. In other words, your faith has to be strong enough to meet His power, and when they meet they strike the spark of a miracle. Probably anyone could generate this necessary faith, but most of us go about it too weakly. We are wavering, and uncertain, and confused, and doubtful, so what faith we have fails to assert itself.

It doesn't look possible, do you say? Of course it doesn't. It doesn't have to. It doesn't even have to be reasonable. REMEMBER YOU ARE DEALING WITH THE POWER THAT CREATED REASON AND SET ITS BOUNDS. This is not a matter of reason. It lies far beyond that.

We who have experienced or seen miracles of healing all know that they occur before one realizes that they are happening, and when they are over one can hardly believe his eyes, and ears, and feelings. It is just as though the condition had

never been. We did not understand it, and never will; but WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?

Can you believe in what is not believable? That is exactly what you must do. When He says "Arise" you must believe you can do it and prove it by doing it. Medicine is coming more and more to the same idea, trying to take the surrender out of sickness, and have people on their feet more quickly. The confidence helps.

God wants you to have a strong and healthy body. Take the best care of it you can, but if things get beyond your ability wait by the Pool of Bethesda for the Great Physician.

4. HEALTH OF MIND

Twenty-five years ago a West Coast psychiatrist said that ten percent of the population of California was in need of treatment for mental disturbance of one kind and degree or another. California would probably be fairly representative of any other state, and the percentage would be much greater anywhere now, and it keeps increasing with tension-making conditions.

If we knew the number of people who are confused, worried, and troubled to the point of damage, it would undoubtedly include a surprising number and many surprising cases. Who is not at times so troubled in mind that the condition is reflected in his body and his behavior?

These conditions are like inward storms. They build up pressures that often result in disease. They ruin our social attitudes. They keep us distressed and discouraged. They result in failure and loss. They sometimes even lead to despair.

He who once stood up in a tossing boat and bade the winds and waves be still can still look upon the storms that rage within us, the disturbed thoughts and emotions that can be so dangerous, and say, "Peace, be still", as effectively as He lulled the storm on the Sea of Galilee long ago.

Though we may be walking about through these trying storms our minds are really lying prostrate and helpless by the Pool of Bethesda. They have tried to keep their thought processes in harmony with things and among themselves till they have grown weary and are about to give up. They have struggled with our emotional upheavals until they are worn out and feel defeated. They need help, and they can have the help of One who is a specialist in such things.

He who is the Lord of Life, whose personality was so perfectly integrated, poised, and balanced, comes that way, and is ready any time to bid our mental powers and controls to rise, remove the pitiful pallets on which they have lain prostrate, and start them functioning again with their accustomed strength, accuracy, and vigor.

The crowd of needy ones around the Pool of Bethesda was great, but the crowd here in this silent unseen place is greater still. Here too others are taking advantage of whatever help is available, not giving way to those not so strong and not concerned with helping the most needy case to go down when the angel troubles the water. If you are that one, watch for the Wonder-worker who can make you whole regardless of all this.

We need to keep very well poised in mind in times like these, yet times like these are the very ones that tend to stagger us and rob us of our confidence. Remember that by faith and in faith your inner life can be kept calm and strong, and can rise up and go forth to victory and success.

In fact, the mind is the first thing the Lord touches, and through it He makes the body whole, so keep your thought life open to Him. With His help you can keep your life on an even keel, and one who does that is safe, even if he must encounter a storm now and then. One who managed so well the conflicts in His own life can surely enable you to manage whatever may arise in yours.

5. HEALTH OF SPIRIT

The Lord who is Master of body and mind is also Master of the spirit. To distinguish clearly between mind and spirit is not easy, but there is a distinction. Perhaps the boundary is clear and definite, or perhaps mind shades off into spirit. The important thing is that spirit is as real as is mind or body.

Jesus indicated that the very word itself shows that the spirit is something like air. In fact, in Greek the words have the same meaning - pneumatos - from which comes our word pneumatic. In other words, it is the invisible, intangible self, as distinguished from the visible, material one, the immortal self as distinguished from the temporal one.

┌ In this life even the spirit is sometimes prostrated. Many things and conditions attack it, and at least temporarily they sometimes lay it low. ┐

DISCOURAGEMENT is one of them. Poor physical conditions, constant worries about things going wrong, or the sudden blow of some especially deep disappointment, sometimes leave it weakened and lying by the Pool of Bethesda waiting for help.

ERROR and WRONG THINKING are especially insidious in the undermining effects on the health of the spirit. They are to it what some strong poison is to the tissues of the body, and they leave it lying by the Sheep Gate gasping for breath. It is debilitated by them, even as it is nourished and strengthened by truth, so under their attack unless it looks for the right deliverance, it may wait in vain.

┌ ENVY, HATRED, SUSPICION, and the like are especially potent poisons of the spirit. Jesus and all other great teachers of time have warned against them with great earnestness. They must be guarded against by keeping alert to their dangerous nature and stealthy approach. ┐

If they have already proceeded far with their deadly work, the spirit is in great and immediate need of the help of the Healer of Bethesda. He will bid it rise from its condition of prostration, remove the bed it will need no more, and go forward again in the vigor of its natural strength and assurance.

There is one great and important difference between maintaining health of body and health of soul. The flesh can depend largely on food, or living conditions, or medical treatment; BUT THE SPIRIT CANNOT. The temporal body may yield to temporal

measures, but the SPIRITUAL BODY CAN BE HEALED ONLY BY THE THINGS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO SPIRITUAL HEALTH, AND THE ONE THING THAT NEVER FAILS IS THE POWER OF THE LORD OF SPIRIT.

People know when they are physically ill because they feel pain or find there is some limitation of use and function; but they may be desperately ill spiritually and not know it, or what to do about it if they do know it, or where to turn for help in their dire need. They may have waited long at the Pool of Bethesda, and have no idea that any time the Wonder-worker would gladly come to them.

Be watchful of the life within and its condition. No pain will warn you that all is not well. You will have to find the signs in your attitudes, your inward feelings, and how you are getting on with your life. If the condition is not healthy turn to Him who will surely say, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."

6. HEALTH OF RELATIONSHIP

Let us now think of the health of relationship, or as we might say, social health. We have already noticed that there is a collective personality of which the individual is a part, that there is a group mind, spirit, and condition, as well as a personal one. That means that there is a collective health and a collective sickness too. We have noticed what happens when one or a few cells undertake to live their lives out of relationship with the rest of the organism.

Things get wrong with our relationships, things that are sometimes beyond our power to cure, especially when they involve the willingness and cooperation of others as well as ourselves. They are the frictions, the broken friendships, the failures of mutual understanding, and the like - all the things that injure and strain the relations between ourselves and others or ourselves and the group.

The Master can cure these conditions and remove their causes, no matter what they are or how many people they involve. Do you have trouble with your relationships? Is your citizenship, your community life, or your collective condition in any way lying sick and helpless by the Pool of Bethesda, unable to get to the water when the ripples move across it?

Look to the Wonder-worker. Ask Him to bless the people concerned and to guide both them and you into the light of understanding and good will. Then guard against any return to the old conditions, and begin fully to exercise the new ones to seal the transaction and give them strength.

Nations should do that when relations are strained between them. Competitors in business should do that when matters threaten to reach the point of hostility. We should all do that when misunderstandings threaten between ourselves and friends. Most surely we should do that if clouds ever threaten to come between us and any of our loved ones.

Soundness at this point as well as at others is necessary to make a really sound life. The world and we who are in it never needed this so much. Let His touch be sought upon all our relationships now, and help us move more swiftly toward a world of good will!

7. IN THE DAY'S WORK

Perhaps you have been thinking that this occurrence at the Pool of Bethesda at the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem was a very spectacular happening and that a great deal of show must have been made of it. If so, read the rest of the story and you will find that for the Master it was all in the day's work:

What happened made so little stir around the sick man that those who were there did not even know anything unusual had taken place till they saw the invalid of years walking about carrying his bed with him.

Then they paid attention. Was it because a hopeless cripple had been made whole right before their eyes - that is, if they had been looking? Not at all. They were indignant because it was the Sabbath and someone had profaned it by making a cure. The sick man should have been told to wait till next morning! They asked who had done it, not to thank Him but to accuse Him of breaking the law. But the man who had been healed did not even know who it was, and meanwhile Jesus had slipped away unobserved, so little concerned was He for notoriety.

The mercy of God does not shut up shop on the Sabbath or any other day. There is no inappropriate time to do good. Moreover, the blessings of God are unobtrusive. No trumpet heralds them, and no showy recognitions are required. They are given as quietly as the sunshine, the rain, and the flowers.

The sick man of Bethesda did find out later in the day who it was that had blessed him so wonderfully, because he met Jesus a second time. Where? In the temple where Jesus regularly went, and where the erstwhile invalid knew was the right place to go and acknowledge so great an obligation to God. When you are blessed, do not neglect to give thanks and, since your obligation is to God, do not be a stranger to the altar where human souls go for communion with Him. You have received a great gift. Now you must conserve it. You can do that better if you worship often and know other worshipers well.

The condition which had prostrated this man for thirty eight years of his life may have been associated with some wrongdoing, for when they met in the temple the Master said to him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing befall thee." Those who are victims of mistakes they have made in life should remember that there is no bar sinister to keep them from divine mercy, but they must resolve to sin no more.



God's grace carries its obligations, but it is abundant and free. Do not linger at your Pool of Bethesda, waiting for someone to help you in, or for others

to make way for you, or for any angel to come and trouble the waters. The Healer passes by. Open your life to His healing touch and His restoring word.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, enable me today to rise,
take up my bed, and walk. Amen.

Blessings,

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR.



With equal enthusiasm, we announce the next and last lesson in this Series, entitled, KEEP TO THE RIGHT. I know there are times in the lives of everyone in which they have difficulty in making decisions as to WHAT IS RIGHT. The following lesson gives you some guides which should make you know the right decision when doubt arises in your mind. As a truth student, you will find it greatly illuminating in your search for perfection. In this lesson, we will take up the following subjects:

DISCOURAGED FISHERMEN
KEEP TO THE RIGHT
WHAT IS RIGHT?

THE TEST
ANALYZE THE SITUATION
THE CONTROLLING FACTOR

CONCLUSION

