

 New Living Translation

Mark 4:30-32

30 Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? 31 It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, 32 but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”

 I Cor 3:4-10 (to 1st .)

4 When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world?

5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 7 It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. 9 For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.

10 Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it.

 I Peter 2: 2-7 (to 1st .), 9 *you*

2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this

nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

Living Stones for God's House

4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.[a]Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. 6 As the Scriptures say,

"I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,[b] chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."[c]

7 Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. you are a chosen people. You are royal priests,[g] a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

 Heb 5: 12-14

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

 Hebrew 6: 1-3, 9-11

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. 2 You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and

eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. 10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. 11 Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. 12 Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

 Hebrews 10: 22-25, 32-33, 36

let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. 33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.

So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

 Eph 4: 11-16

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

SH 35:19–25 2nd Our

Our

church is built on the divine Principle, Love. We can

- 21 unite with this church only as we are new-born of Spirit, as we reach the Life which is Truth and the Truth which is Life by bringing forth
24 the fruits of Love, — casting out error and healing the sick.

Spiritual
Eucharist

SH 28:9

- 9 While respecting all that is good in the Church or out of it, one's consecration to Christ is more on the ground of demonstration than of profession. In conscience, we
12 cannot hold to beliefs outgrown; and by understanding more of the divine Principle of the deathless Christ, we are enabled to heal the sick and to triumph over sin.

SH 27:22

Jesus sent forth seventy students at one time, but only eleven left a desirable historic record. Tradition credits

24 him with two or three hundred other disciples
who have left no name. “Many are called,
but few are chosen.” They fell away from grace because
27 they never truly understood their Master's instruction.

Recreant
disciples

SH 136:29

The disciples apprehended their Master better than
30 did others; but they did not comprehend all
that he said and did, or they would not have
questioned him so often. Jesus patiently persisted in
1 teaching and demonstrating the truth of being. His stu-
dents saw this power of Truth heal the sick, cast out evil,
3 raise the dead; but the ultimate of this wonderful work
was not spiritually discerned, even by them, until after the
crucifixion, when their immaculate Teacher stood before
6 them, the victor over sickness, sin, disease, death, and
the grave.

Doubting
disciples

SH 34:18

18 Through all the disciples experienced, they became more
spiritual and understood better what the Master had
taught. His resurrection was also their resur-
21 rection. It helped them to raise themselves and
others from spiritual dulness and blind belief in God into
the perception of infinite possibilities. They needed this
24 quickening, for soon their dear Master would rise again
in the spiritual realm of reality, and ascend far above
their apprehension. As the reward for his faithfulness,
27 he would disappear to material sense in that change which
has since been called the ascension.

Fellowship
with Christ

SH 34:5–17

If Christ,

6 Truth, has come to us in demonstration, no other com-
memoration is requisite, for demonstration is Immanuel,
or *God with us*; and if a friend be with us, why need we
9 memorials of that friend?

If all who ever partook of the sacrament had really
commemorated the sufferings of Jesus and drunk of
12 his cup, they would have revolutionized the
world. If all who seek his commemoration
through material symbols will take up the cross, heal
15 the sick, cast out evils, and preach Christ, or Truth,
to the poor, — the receptive thought, — they will bring
in the millennium.

Millennial
glory

SH 138:17–22

Jesus established in the Christian era the precedent for
18 all Christianity, theology, and healing. Christians are
under as direct orders now, as they were then,
to be Christlike, to possess the Christ-spirit, to
21 follow the Christ-example, and to heal the sick as well as
the sinning.

New era
in Jesus

SH 140:16

We worship spiritually, only as we cease to worship
materially. Spiritual devoutness is the soul of Chris-
18 tianity. Worshipping through the medium of
matter is paganism. Judaic and other rituals
are but types and shadows of true worship. “The true
21 worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in
truth.”

The true
worship

SH 276:4

When the divine precepts
are understood, they unfold the foundation of fellowship,
6 in which one mind is not at war with another, but all have

Universal
brotherhood

one Spirit, God, one intelligent source, in accordance with
the Scriptural command: “Let this Mind be in you,
9 which was also in Christ Jesus.” Man and his Maker
are correlated in divine Science, and real consciousness
is cognizant only of the things of God.

SH 583:12–19

12 **CHURCH.** The structure of Truth and Love; what-
ever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of
15 its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the
dormant understanding from material beliefs to the ap-
prehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of
18 divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and
healing the sick.

Hymn. 439:1

As a fire is meant for burning
With a bright and warming flame,
So a church is meant for healing
Giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach mere creed or custom,
But to prove God's loving care,
We join hands across the nations,
Finding neighbors everywhere.

Words: Ruth Duck, adapt.

Music: American melody, White and King's The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. CSPA

Hymn. 105:3

Up unto Thee, our living Head,
Let us in all things grow;
Till Thou hast made us free indeed,
And spotless here below.

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: William Gardiner

Hymn. 518:4

So fulfill your holy mission,
Safely pass through pilgrim-days,
Hope shall grow to full fruition,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, adapt. alt.

Music: Nicholas P. Schliapin

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