

## SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT TEACHER

By Robert Applegate, Ph. D.

JESUS CHRIST undoubtedly spoke Aramaic and Greek with equal fluency. We do not realize how easy it is for a person to be bilingual, but in many parts of Europe it is quite common for a child to grow up speaking three or four languages as a matter of course.

So Jesus Christ, growing up in a Greek-Jewish environment, would naturally speak Aramaic and Greek. But Aramaic was His mother tongue and He no doubt habitually spoke in it.

We have no records in Aramaic of Jesus' words except for a few excerpts preserved in the Gospels; such as the words He spoke to the daughter of Jairus: Talitha cumi ("Young girl, get up"). However back in the 1920's Professor C. F. Burney of Oxford translated some of the words of Jesus back into the Aramaic that He spoke. When he did this, he discovered that Jesus quite often spoke in poetic form. His words had meter and rhyme, and He phrased His teaching in the parallel form that is characteristic of the Psalms.

The Hebrew prophets before Jesus had expressed themselves poetically. Their sayings had rhythm and parallelism (which made them easier for the hearers to remember), but very rarely did they have rhyme. There is some rhyme in Proverbs, but it was uncommon among the Jews before the Second Century B.C. Aramaic, however, is a particularly easy language to rhyme as many words end in either an - ah or an - ay sound. Rhyming was fairly common by the time of Jesus and His use of it along with meter and parallelism must have made His words unforgettable to many who heard them.

One of the passages that Prof. Burney has retranslated into Aramaic and found to be poetic is the Beatitudes. His words about the First Beatitude ("Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven") are worth quoting in part. He first points out that Jesus probably did not say the words "in spirit" since it would be obvious to His listeners what He meant by "the poor." The words "in spirit" were added by Matthew for the benefit of Gentile readers who would think of "the poor" as being simply the indigent. Prof. Burney goes on to explain the meaning of the Aramaic word Jesus used:

"The 'poor' are not merely those who are deficient in material goods. . . . The word properly means 'humbled' by external circumstances, such as the persecution of the ungodly. The 'poor' are 'humbled' because they are 'humble' towards God - i.e. because for religious motives they refuse to take steps to avenge themselves or assert their personal rights."

To such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven, which Paul describes as "righteousness (right relation with God), peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit."

J. B. Phillips translates this Beatitude:

"How happy are the humble-minded for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs."

The Beatitudes have been called "world-changing truths," and such they are; they turn the world's values upside-down. The Second Beatitude ("Blessed are they that mourn") seems particularly paradoxical. For the word translated

"blessed" could equally well be rendered happy, fortunate, successful, or prosperous; it means all of these. (It was the word used by the Greeks to describe the blissful and untroubled life of their gods.) So this Beatitude is equivalent to saying: "How happy are the unhappy!" Yet it is always true, if the unhappiness turns us to God. Anything at all that turns us honestly and whole-heartedly to God is our greatest blessing. For if we do turn we will "be comforted": i.e. we will experience the Compassion of God; we will receive strength and joy which will be so much greater than the sorrow that they will be incommensurate with it.

One can mourn because of a personal loss, or because of one's own mistakes, or simply because of the bull-headedness of men who will not acknowledge the Source of their good - as Jesus mourned over Jerusalem.

If our sorrow simply turns us in upon ourselves, then it will be not a blessing, but a curse. It will lead not to the Compassion of God, but to the self-pity that produces cancer and consumption. So Paul said: "The sorrow (or, pain) that leads to God produces repentance (turning to God), and repentance produces deliverance that does not need to be repented of; but the sorrow (pain) of the world produces death."

In all the Beatitudes the first member points to the man who is receptive to God; the second member describes God's response to such a man. In all of them the language is reminiscent of the passage in Isaiah (61:1-ff.) that Jesus saw as describing His mission and of which He told His listeners: "Today is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." The passage is:

"The Spirit of My Master, God, is upon Me; for God has anointed Me (this is what made Jesus the Christ, the Anointed). He has sent Me to proclaim good news to the humble; to heal the crushed in heart and mind; to announce to the prisoners freedom, to the captives the opening of their eyes; to announce the year of God's pleasure, the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to give them beauty in place of ashes, the oil of joy in place of mourning."

One who is sent is an apostle. Jesus was the Apostle of God, as the Twelve were His Apostles. Isaiah and Jesus promised "opening of the eyes" to the captives, because it is our lack of perception that imprisons us. The vengeance of God is His wiping out all negation in us. Ashes were put on the head for mourning. When the mourning was over the ashes were washed off and a beautiful headdress was put on. This is what Jesus said He came to offer us.

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LESSONS IN NAMES

By Alden Truesdell

THE NAMES with which men are christened are meaningful. Each name points to a quality with which the possessor of the name is endowed. Your name has a meaning, as does mine.

Hebrew names are rich in symbolic meaning. An example of a well known name is Bathsheba, which means daughter of prosperity. We know Bathsheba as the woman David (beloved) took from her husband Uriah (flame of the Lord) by having

Uriah killed in battle. Bathsheba became the mother of Solomon. His name means peaceable; and he brought forth the most peaceful, productive, and prosperous era in the entire history of the Hebrews.

As in most of Scripture, these "things are an allegory." We see how the flame of the Lord, or the Wisdom of Spirit, merges with the essence, or daughter, of prosperity; and how the beloved of God woos prosperity away from the Light of Spirit, forming a merger which produces peace. This is one instance of how lessons may be obtained from names and how each event recorded in the Scripture has metaphysical - or spiritual - import.

Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." So do we. And for every pressure there is a reaction. Thus if we press toward God we get God in return - with increase. This is the eternal law of giving and receiving. Sometimes the floodgates are opened at the most unexpected times.

Another example of the law of action and reaction is that when we have pressed toward God there comes a time of reaction when we rest from all our labors and our works do follow us. There comes a time in the reorganizing of our consciousness when the thoughts and experiences of former times come up for a reconciliation with the new consciousness. We rest at center and observe this gathering of experiences and impressions. The Gospel likens this to "a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." Such experiences as these come at certain points in our spiritual ongoing and are reactions to the zeal which has been directed toward God. In this gathering and unloading we are freed from the weight of excess baggage we have been carrying and are vitalized by the increase of released forces.

What man is doing in these practices, is to place himself under the jurisdiction of the law which caused him to be and which sustains, supports, and supplies him with all the equipment for the living of a successful life. So through the flame of the Lord and God's beloved, comes the daughter of prosperity to bless the man of peace with prosperity everlasting.

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WORK

By H. B. Jeffery

MANY PERSONS are dissatisfied with their present work; they are seeking something better. Or they are unemployed.

Know: "The Father works, and I work." You love to do the work of your Father. It is the Father who does the work and it is His Wisdom that teaches you how to do it. You are always in your right place, doing the works of your Father.

Men do not know this truth; but in God, you are always in your right place. Therefore do what is at hand. Know that it is your good and that you are in your right place. You are serving the Father, for He needs you to do the

work; therefore you love your work. The work will then take on a different aspect; you will see the beauty and joy in it. If you are doing something with your hands it will take on a different quality. People will feel it and like it, even though they do not know why this is.

You will see with extended vision. You will see how everything is in Divine Order and how your work fits into the world. You will gain knowledge. You will be able to see how one action leads to another action. You will see God extending Himself and moving. Then your capacities become greater than your present work calls for, and you will be lifted out of it and into a better job. You will climb and climb.

Doors will open to you which before were closed; you will always be in the right place at the right time, with exactness and precision governing all your tasks and appointments. Kings of art, science, the professions - or whatever line of endeavor you are in - will recognize the wisdom and skill you possess.

During the Depression a man was discouraged because he was unable to find employment. Everywhere he was given the cold treatment and he began to resent it. Finally he began to praise all the people he met; on the next day he praised the man he was to see. When the man told him, "Sorry, no work," he silently praised and blessed him. As he left the office the man called him back.

"Say, you have something I like," he said.

And he gave him a job.

Another man was in the same boat. He called at the Standard Oil Company office and was told:

"Really sorry, but we are laying off men today who have been with us for years; we could never give you work."

This man praised the work that was meant for him. Suddenly the executive said:

"Will you do anything?"

"Why, yes."

"Will you start at the bottom in the oil pits in Indiana?"

"Sure."

"O. K., you have a job."

He worked several months at this (despite big things he had done before), just praising the opportunity of working and getting his supplies met. One day the Vice President of the Company went out without anyone knowing about it to look over the plant; he saw this young chap. The chap apologized for being so dirty, etc. The Vice President said:

"I like to see you just where you are and I like your spirit."

Within a few weeks the man was promoted. He moved upward and upward until he became manager of the business for three states.

A joyous and praiseful person attracts atmospheres higher than those breathed by others. He carries a contagion of joy. Men do not know what it is, but they feel it is good for them, and so they love him.

Rejoice. Let the Songs of Zion fill you. You are a prodigal having gone out into a far country. Any progress you make today is a returning to what you have always been. Remember, remember, remember who you are. You are a son of God.

Nothing will ever be given you to do which you have not the strength to do. Joy is strength. It is the joy in doing your work that gives you strength. You will never have tomorrow's strength today nor strength now for what you will do later in the day. At the right time strength will be given to you - it will be at the moment you need it. That is the way the Divine works. You are a ministering spirit, sent forth to minister. To give your life - that is why you are here. You give out and the more you give, the more you will receive.

Divine Love ever moves you into the right environment. It befriends you and protects you from anything harmful.

You are ever in the Presence of God. So fill your mind with God. Then whatever you do, whether it be just to smile or to do a kindness, it will all be in the service of the Father. You will be ministering unto the Divine. Then you will laugh in the midst of famine, for you will know your oneness with the Divine. If the whole world could laugh right now there would be no famine anywhere. There would be plenty for all. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit." The Kingdom of God is NOW.

Man is gentle, kind, loving, considerate; that is his nature and now it is present. Ever acknowledge that God is fully present; then you will see the good which you didn't see before. You will see beauty.

Loving never tires you. Therefore if you are working in love, you will never be tired. You will be as fresh at night as when you got up in the morning. God thinks through you, God works through you, God loves through you. God is the ONLY PRESENCE.

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SPIRITICITY, September 1966

AS I SEE IT

By Nell Truesdell

Father, I thank Thee for a greater consciousness of Life;  
I thank Thee for an expanded capacity of Intelligence;  
I thank Thee for a deeper comprehension of Love.  
These, Father, are my treasures, my Substance.

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Is your life illuminated by the golden glow that was built into your heart when God created you? Or is it lit by the pale white light of knowledge that you have stored in your intellect through the years? The light that illumines your world determines the degree of radiance by which your world is revealed. Your whole life-experience is affected by your choice of light.

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God's Love is too strong to be denied.

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Man carries charms on his person; he adores saints; he touches wood for luck; he wishes on a new moon; he avoids evil omens. All these practices seem to work. Why? Because man invests them with the working power of his

attention. He receives, on his own terms, the answers he looks for; and they are always limited.

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Give God credit for, and take delight in, the changes that are being wrought in your consciousness.

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Most persons are unable to see anything beyond pleasures and the enrush of desire. They keep their attention fixed on their own mental-emotional images, and worship them as having power to satisfy the variety of their passions.

Instead, they should train their attention toward God in their midst, so that His controlling Influence might relieve pressures of desire and give satisfaction without the penalty of dissipated spiritual energy.

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Ingratitude breeds hate.

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If you look into your past, try to recall how God's Love healed, protected, uplifted, supported, illumined, and blessed you.

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He is a master who hews to a line; his endurance rewards him.

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Your suppositions stand between you and the peace you seek, the prosperity you strive for, the health you crave, the happiness you feel you should enjoy. Cast aside your suppositions and your sight will clear so that you will see (perceive) what is good now for you.

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Like the rose,  
Do not I  
Breathe my image  
On every passerby?

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When, by the bright light of Spirit, secret motives are thrown into bold relief, a person is apt to react with violence. He is also apt to justify his resentment against that which reveals too much of himself.

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I am rich because I am enriched.

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Do you recite prayers with your lips while your attention is fixed on the passing images in memory? God is not mocked; He demands your whole attention. His response is always greater than your devotion.

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God said through Hosea that our own doings beset us about and ensnare us. (Hosea 7:2)

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If you bring one small lighted candle into a dark room, only a small area is illuminated. But switch on a chandelier and you see all the objects in the room. In a similar manner, when your consciousness is illuminated by your small fund of knowledge, most of it remains in darkness. Turn on the golden glow in your heart and your consciousness is flooded with radiance.

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Be strengthened, be cheered.

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When you pray, do so earnestly. And with a receptive heart, believe that with God all things are possible.

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The successful man in any age has always been the man who came to the point where he wanted to quit, but didn't.

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God made man in His Image and Likeness and breathed into him the Breath of Life. Man enjoyed a state of perfect Being until he discovered that he had a will by which he could make choices. As man became independent, he misused his will and suffered, by his error in judgment, the limitation of mortality. He cut himself off from continuous existence as a man. However, by the mercy of God, man may return to his original relation with God by aligning his will with God's Will. He then may be delivered from the handicap of mortality and be elevated into a state of spiritual Sonship with the Father in Heaven.

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When we tell people that God will give them more than they can get for themselves, they sit back and negatively wait for God to do something for them. Instead, they should spend every waking hour in the practice of getting acquainted with God. And they should love God more than whatever it is they hope to get from Him.

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Wisdom's fruit is always good.

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Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

September, 1966

1. ASCRIBE ye strength unto God.
2. Thou shalt deal BOUNTIFULLY with me.
3. The righteous shall COMPASS me about.  
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5. DISCRETION shall preserve thee.
6. All the EARTH shall worship Thee.
7. In Thy FAITHFULNESS answer Me.
8. I will speak of the GLORIOUS honour of Thy majesty.
9. Thou art my HELP and MY deliverer.
10. Thou didst confirm thine INHERITANCE.  
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12. Thou shalt JUDGE the people righteously.
13. Sing unto God, ye KINGDOMS of the earth.
14. LET everything that hath breath praise the LORD.
15. O God, in the MULTITUDE of Thy MERCY, hear ME.
16. Let us exalt His NAME together.
17. He is OUR help and OUR shield.  
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19. Make His PRAISE glorious.
20. Avoid foolish QUESTIONS, . . . and strivings about the law.
21. The Lord is RI RIGHTEOUS in all His ways.
22. Thy God hath commanded thy STRENGTH.
23. I will magnify Him with THANKSGIVING.
24. UTTER the memory of His great goodness.  
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26. Make the VOICE of His praise to be heard.
27. Our soul WAITETH for the Lord.
28. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
29. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy YOUTH.
30. The ZEAL of Thine house hath eaten me up.

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"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

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As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,  
So Spiriticity is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle.

CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE, 2400 Canton Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, 76112