**THERE IS A FOUNTAIN**

Sunday School Lesson 8

*Lessons from the Hymnbook*

Zechariah 13:1

11/27/2022

**Introduction:** Last week, our hymn study was based upon the song “Nothing Between.” There were seven primary thoughts from the song that we reviewed during our last Sunday school session. 1. We must not allow worldly dreams to come between us and the Lord. 2. We must not allow sinful pleasures to come between us and the Lord. 3. We must not allow worldly pleasures to come between us and the Lord. 4. We must not allow a cold heart to create a gulf between us and the Lord. 5. We must not allow pride or position to come between us and the Lord. 6. We must not allow another person to come between us and the Lord. 7. We must not allow the pain of trials to come between us and the Lord. To summarize the lesson, there are many things that could come between us and the Lord if we allowed them to, but it is our job to keep those things from taking place. For this week’s lesson, we are going to be studying the hymn “There Is A Fountain.” This hymn was written by a man named William Cowper in 1771. Sadly, the story of Mr. Cowper is not a pleasant one. Both before and after his conversion, Mr. Cowper struggled greatly with depression. It is especially painful to think that the author of such a song of redemption would struggle to realize the comfort that the Lord provides. Nonetheless, the Lord used this troubled individual to write a beautiful song about His blood that believers have sung for over 250 years.

1. **THERE IS ONLY ONE FOUNTAIN WHERE WE CAN FIND CLEANSING FOR OUR SINS.**

* While our hymnbook chooses to attach 1 Peter 1:19 to this hymn, it is obvious that that hymn is based on Zechariah 13:1. This is the only place in Scripture where there is an implication of a fountain associated together with the remission of sins. There are several references to a living fountain of water, but Zechariah speaks of a fountain where believer can deal with their sin and uncleanness. This has to be a clear reference to the blood sacrifice made by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. A fountain speaks to a broad nourishing. When Jesus shed His bled on the cross, a fountain was opened for all who are willing to come unto Him. His blood sacrifice is sufficient to pay for the sins of all mankind. It is interesting that the expression “fountain of blood” is used several times in the Bible, and it is always used in a negative connotation. One would not expect to find cleansing in a fountain of blood (Leviticus 20:18; Mark 5:29). The Egyptians had their water source turned to blood, and this was done as a punishment from the Lord (Exodus 7:19). We also see judgment in the last days to include fountains being turned to blood (Revelation 16:4). The fountain of Jesus Christ’ blood is both special and unique in its character and ability. We can plunge beneath its flood and have its cleansing power loose us from all of our guilty stains.

1. **THAT FOUNTAIN OF JESUS CHRIST’S BLOOD IS NEEDED FOR EVERY ONE OF US.**

* The thief on the cross next to Jesus was able to find cleansing in the fountain of Jesus’ blood (Luke 23:39-43). Just as we sing in the song, I imagine that there was great rejoicing within the heart of that thief when he heard the words of the Lord. He was comforted to know that he would be there with Christ in Paradise. The thief had found the cleansing fountain. We like to think about this encounter as encouragement to us that even the hardest of sinners can be saved. Yet, I fear that we are looking at the story of the thief on the cross in the wrong light. That thief on the cross was no different than you or I. We need that fountain just as much as he did. We were just as vile and unclean as he was before salvation, as we are all sinners who come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We are reminded in James 2:10 that one violation of the Law makes us just as guilty as any other violation. All of us are responsible for the necessity of Christ’s death, and all of us must go and get cleansing from that same fountain. Philippians 3:21 reminds us that we all possess the same vile body. Thankfully, as a result of that fountain, we will one day have this vile body turned into a glorious and incorruptible body. May we never forget how hopeless we all were in our lost condition. We were at death’s doorsteps just as that thief was. We were condemned already in our sins.

1. **THE FOUNTAIN WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER TO SAVE A LOST SINNER.**

* The fountain of Jesus’ blood will never run dry. It will never lose its power. This reminds me of a different song that we are not studying today. Regarding the fountain of Christ’s blood, it is just as powerful today as it was 2,000 years ago! Hosea 13:15 speaks of a fountain that will dry up. This is the fountain of man and his prosperity. We have total confidence in the fountain of Christ’s blood. It will continue to save until every last ransomed soul is saved to sin no more. This, of course, is referring to that day when there will be no more need of redemption through the fountain because every one of us will have a glorified and perfect body. There will no longer be a struggle with sin. I think of the pool of Bethesda that is mentioned in John 5. This pool was known to have some supernatural healing power. An angel would periodically come down and stir up the waters. Yet, we don’t hear anything today about that pool providing healing. While it still has water in it today, it does not provide any type of healing. There is no other fountain or other body of water like the cleansing fountain of Christ’s blood! It is a lasting fountain. It is a powerful fountain. It is powerful enough to save all who come to it, and it is powerful enough to continue through to the end (Hebrews 13:20). Like that pool of Bethesda, the saints of God can wash their garments white with His blood (Revelation 7:14).

1. **THE FOUNTAIN FLOWS BECAUSE OF GOD’S REDEEMING LOVE FOR MANKIND.**

* As we sing the fourth stanza of the song, we are reminded that we come to the fountain in faith. When we do this, we see the redeeming love of God in the fountain of Christ’s blood. I think of the metaphor in the song of seeing the stream that the Lord’s flowing wounds supply. It reminds me of the Old Testament reference to the stream coming forth out of the rock (Psalm 46:4; 78:16). The Lord has brought out a stream of His blood that flows from the Rock of our salvation! The idea of a stream is that it extends out. It can flow a very long way. The longest stream in the world is over 4,000 miles long. The picture we get is of the blood of Christ which flowed from His side (John 19:34). It flows today all throughout the world. The stream of His blood cries out to all mankind to be saved. The blood of Jesus speaks to us (Hebrews 12:24). It tells us of His love for us. Revelation 1:5 reminds us that the Lord’s blood is a great show of His love for us. Not only was He willing to be wounded for you and me and open up the fountain of blood, but He also lets that blood flow as a steady stream that speaks of His redeeming and unchanging love. We must not lose sight of the love that Christ has shown to us through the fountain of His blood. We should not be afraid to share the message with others of the blood sacrifice that has saving power. It is a message of God’s love.

1. **THE FOUNTAIN OF JESUS CHRIST’S BLOOD WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.**

* By this point of our lesson series, it should have become clear to you that many of the hymns share a similar theme. Many of them end at the same point – the believer praising God in Heaven for all eternity. In this song, we close out with the thought that when we die, we will continue singing about the blood of Jesus Christ. Even when it is no longer needed, Christ’s blood and His sacrifice will never be forgotten. When we are in Heaven, we will sing a nobler and sweeter song. It will be nobler because we will have even more understanding of it. It will not be mixed with apathy or even unbelieving voices. It will be a song sung by the perfected saints of God. It will be a sweeter song because we will have the full realization of what we are singing about now. Consider the words of the song that the saints of God will sing (Revelation 5:9-10): “9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” Are you looking forward to that new song that we are going to be singing together with Jesus Christ? The Lord is going to put that new song in our mouths (Psalm 40:3), and we will happily sing wonderful praises to the Almighty God.