

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Proper 5

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

9. And as Jesus passed forth from thence, (that is, the place wherein He had been and was not anymore, for He hath moved on, and therefore He was no longer thence, and had therefore gone hence from thence,) He saw a man (let the reader understand) named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and seeing his strong arms and ruddy countenance He saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose from his seat, packed away the monies into a small sack, quite nicely embroidered with a Shan El label, putteth it across his shoulder, and followed Him into a nearby hostelry from whence issued there the scent of fine cooking, the sound of wine being poured, and divers other sounds which had no didactic relevance.
10. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat and sundry other things in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples, and did purchase many bottles of fine vintage and small bowls of olives and cheesy snacks. And there was much nudging and winking and the occasional loud chorus, and chorus, and chorus.
11. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? And why doth He imbibe so freely of the wine and share the peanuts? And by the way, some of those snacks are not kosher.
12. But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. And that's a spiritual metaphor by the way – it doesn't mean spots or coughing. But this wine – no, not that wine - this wine is good for the body and the soul, and the savoury snacks pleasant to the taste. Well, not so much the cheesy ones, but let the scripture be fulfilled.
13. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, and a table that hath many seats: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

[There is a gap here in the verses but not in the delivery thereof, and the congregation must not sit down even for a brief while.]

18. While He spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.
19. And Jesus laid aside His platter, arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples, though some did linger and empty their cups, for it was warm and the sun did shine brightly.
20. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, pushed through the disciples, came behind Him, and touched the hem of His garment:
21. For she said within herself, and then aloud for the sake of Matthew's notes, (that is not the aforementioned tax collector but another Matthew of the same name;) If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.
22. But Jesus felt His robe tugged and turned Him about, and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour, and she did return unto her house, rejoicing, but in making a large stew in celebration she lost a coin, so her rejoicing stopped and her work was cut out.
23. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels playing solemn music and the people making a noise with weeping, wailing and gnashing of their gums,
24. He said unto them, Give place, and cease that hideous music for thou hast not the talent for public performance. The maid is not dead, but sleepeth, even through thy racket. And they did mock and laugh Him to scorn, and one did produce the Certificate of Death signed by the local apothecary. But Jesus did sweep him aside and bid the disciples to clear the house. And they did forcibly eject all the professional mourners, who still demanded that they be paid. And this upset Matthew.

25. But when the people were put forth, He went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose, blinking and looking super-confused. And she did ask for a drink and her parents were comforted and did fetch her an tankard of Olivet Ale.
26. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land, though many did doubt the reports thereof, but the profits of the Olivet brewery were greatly enhanced.