

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's Day May 7th 1911

Morning Sermon

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous. (Psalm 146:8)

O what a mercy, friends, if you have expressed the very feeling of your souls in your hymn of praise, as in the sight of a heart-searching and rein-trying God:

*I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see. (John Newton)*

You are a miracle of grace if you can use such language honestly in the sight of the Lord: *I once was lost*. The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

*Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to save my soul from danger,
Interposed His precious blood. (Lady Huntingdon)*

Was blind, but now I see. O to have spiritual eye-sight, and to be enabled to say concerning spiritual things, as the young man about whom we have been reading, whose eyes the Lord opened: *One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. (John 9:25)* He was born blind naturally, the Lord opened his eyes, and whatever they might say about the Man who opened his eyes, here he took his stand: *One thing I know*. You cannot dispute him out of this one thing. "You may say what you like about the man who opened my eyes, whether He be a sinner or not – *one thing I know. I was blind, but now I see* – and see clearly.

So spiritually, we are born blind. Every sinner born into this world is born blind. He has no spiritual eye-sight. The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind, and it comes to pass sooner or later, that they say: *One thing I know* – I cannot say much, I cannot talk as God's children, but I can say this: *I was blind, but now I see*. Well, as the Lord liveth, you will go to heaven. He that has opened your eyes will lead you about and instruct you, and keep you as the apple of His eye, and you shall be brought to say with the psalmist: *Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God. (Psalm 146:5)* You shall have the God of Jacob for your help. He will –

*Strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by His righteous, omnipotent hand. (Kirkham)*

God's people are His witnesses, you know, and they bear witness that the Lord openeth the eyes of the blind, that they may discover something. Something causes them to be bowed down, and later on something that causes them to be lifted up within them. Jesus said: *I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight. (Matthew 11:25)* O it is a mercy of all mercies to have one's eyes opened. The man whose eyes are opened is a loving man, and a man that is born again, and born again to see the kingdom of God. Jesus said to Nicodemus: *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)* Now, the man that is born of God, he sees the kingdom of heaven, and he sees the things which are hid from the wise and prudent, and he knows that he is a favourite of God. It is the hand of God. The Lord has shined into his heart, the same God who said: *Let there be light. (Genesis 1:3)* The apostle says: *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the*

riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. (Ephesians 1:18-19)

O the Word of God, the blessed things, the blessed things there are set forth in it! Have there ever been days in your experience when the Word of God has been precious? Have there ever been days when you have searched the scriptures, and when – I was going to say – esteemed the words of God’s mouth more than your necessary food? You would rather go without a meal than neglect God’s Word, and you have asked Him to shine through the sacred pages, and let you know where you are. I said last night: “Lord, show me where I am, be my strength, my wisdom, my righteousness and my all and in all, and soon bring me where Thou art, that I may see Thee, and be like Thee.” It put me in mind of it when you were singing just now:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine:
But God, who called me here below,
Will be for ever mine. (John Newton)*

Do you not sometimes long to be where God is, and that God may be for ever thine?

*And from the rivers of His grace,
Drink endless pleasures in. (Isaac Watts)*

Well, it is in reserve for you if your eyes have been opened by the Lord; though you dare not say that it is in reserve for you, yet I will take it upon myself to say it for you.

If you come to the law and the testimony, I do not think it will be hard to prove that you will show forth His praise in time and throughout eternity. Perhaps you cannot say, as the psalmist said: *Praise the Lord, O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. (Psalm 146:1,2)* You say you dare not use such language, and you feel you will never be able to use it. Why? Why, you say, you are such a sinner. But who has shown you that you are such a sinner? All are sinners in God’s sight, but few are in their own. I know a man that once went to a minister and said, “I am a sinner.” “O yes,” the minister said, “I know you are.” “Yes, but I am a great sinner.” “Yes,” the minister said, “I know you are.” The man said, “How do you know?” and he was offended. And it would have come to a hand to hand encounter, if the minister had not desisted. All men are great sinners, but they may not know it, as taught by God. But where there is the work of the Holy Ghost, the man will feel that he is a sinner, and a great sinner too, and that he is under condemnation. This will be discovered to him, and he will know what it is for his soul to be cast down, and most likely for Satan to take advantage, and cause the man to sink lower and lower. I know some in this house of prayer have traversed this path, but there may be some that are just beginning to, and you think that some strange thing has happened to you. But this is the path the Lord leads in. They know something of being cursed out of the mouth of God, and in soul feeling they are lost, and to hell they must go. No, no, no! They will never go to hell; their eyes have been opened. They see their shape, and making only something of it, not much. O, say you, I think I see a great deal. But you will see greater things yet if the Lord has opened your eyes, and you will have to turn again and again, and see greater abominations, and you will wonder whether such a filthy, guilty sinner, one mass of iniquity, can ever get to heaven. Ah, and the devil may say, Man, you may as well give it up; heaven is not for the likes of you; you have sinned against God, and committed the unpardonable sin, so you may as well give it all up, and enjoy this life, for you have got to perish.

The poor man knows something of what it is to be bowed down by reason of the vile insinuations of the adversary of his soul. I am glad if there are such here, whose eyes the Lord has recently opened, and you feel yourself a sinner, and you feel the burden of sin. It would do my soul good to hear the cry: “What must I do to be saved?” O it would! I would that this place of worship was full of souls enquiring their way to Zion with their faces thither ward. If they had a burden on their back, and guilt pressing them down, I should have something to say, I know. That is, if it was my privilege to preach

to such a people, and the Lord was to make an open door for me. That is how it was when the Lord was at work with dear Mr Covell. He used to sit and hear as for eternity, and wait for every word that came from the minister's lips. It is so, friends, when the work of grace is being carried on. "O where shall I spend eternity?" is a deep and a solemn concern. It is written in the Word of God: *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? (Hebrews 2:3)* This soul won't be one that neglects it; he will attend to the things that are spoken.

I appeal to you, my dear friends, was it not so in the beginning? You look back to the beginning when the Lord opened your eyes, and laid the things of eternity with weight upon your hearts and consciences. You feared lest the Lord would not have anything to do with you, and your soul was bowed down within you by reason of the burden of guilt and sin. What must the sinner do? What must I do to be saved? You see no way of escape, and you say, "I have come to the ends of the earth, the end of my strength, the end of my wisdom, and if one good thought could purchase heaven, I could not produce it." Well, you are a blessed man. I would rather be where you are with hell in the soul, than I would sit upon the throne of a king without a knowledge of the things of God as revealed to you. The day will come when the Lord, who has opened your eyes (for by reason of His having opened your eyes your soul is bowed down within you) the day will come when your soul will be raised up.

You cannot see how God can save you, but He can do it in a moment. Well, you have got eyes, but you cannot see. He brings forth the blind that have eyes, and the Lord opens their eyes. This is what He commands His servants to do... The psalmist said: *Open Thou mine eyes, what for? that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. (Psalm 119:18)* Now, there are wonderful things in God's Word, but you cannot see them. Look at Luther as he is toiling hard doing penance. The Word of the Lord comes: *The just shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:4)* O my friends, God opened his eyes! He still opens the eyes of those that are blind, and they see. They see light in God's light, and they see the mystery revealed unto them concerning the kingdom of His grace.

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind. Have you not sometimes sung with deep feeling of heart:

*E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die. (William Cowper)*

You looked for hell; He brought you heaven. He opened your eyes, and you saw that He was able to save to the very uttermost all them that come to God by Him. *All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37)* If you are coming it is because He has drawn you and put you into life. *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. (1 Peter 2:4)* The Lord opens their eyes to see this. *By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)*

O how precious was Jesus the hour you first believed! O, I say, friends, when the Lord begins the work of grace in the soul, it causes the soul to be bowed down, and when the Lord reveals the deep things of the kingdom of His grace, the bowed down soul is raised up. It is the Lord's doing, and none but the Lord can raise up the bowed down soul. Jesus Christ, in the days of His flesh, went about doing good. He opened the eyes of the blind, and raised up the bowed down. We might refer to such instances. You know, when John sent his disciples to ask concerning Him, He said: *Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see... (Luke 7:22)* The Father called Christ in righteousness, and gave Him for a covenant to His people, for a light to lighten the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind. He opened the eyes of those that were born blind, and the eyes of those that were spiritually blind.

O I do feel it is a mercy that this is ever going on. Why sometimes, friends, here I must make my confession, my soul is bowed down. Things press heavy, spiritually and temporally, and the soul is bowed down, and we are ready to say with dear old Jacob: *All these things are against me.* (Genesis 42:36) We can see no deliverance. Our way is hedged in, we do not know what to do. We cannot go this way, and we dare not go that way. We have to stand still that we may see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord has opened our eyes, and in a moment we have seen His salvation.

I was reading yesterday in my daily reading (for you know we read the Word of God through once every year at the least). At the present time I am reading in the second book of Kings, and I was favoured somewhat in my meditation upon a portion there. The king of Assyria had sent to fetch Elisha. The king is determined that he will put him to death. He said: *Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him.* And it was said: *He is in Dothan. Therefore sent he hither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?* Here is a company, and so sometimes, friends, there is such a company, it seems as though it has come for your destruction. But not so. Elisha answered and said: *Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.* (2 Kings 6:13-15) *The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.* (Psalm 34:7) And when the Lord opens our eyes, we see that deliverance is at hand.

Poor old Jacob! He said: *All these things are against me.* I am glad that it is written in the Word of God that Jacob said it. I am not glad that God's ancient people sinned, but I am glad that it is recorded that Jacob said: *All these things are against me,* and I am glad that Moses spoke as he did when he staggered at the promises of God, when He said there was to be a king. I was amazed yesterday in meditating upon the subject. Here is the man who delivered Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians, and yet he staggered at the promise of God. They were men of like passions as ourselves.

*Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.* (William Cowper)

Why Jacob, Joseph is ruling in Egypt, he is next to Pharaoh on the throne. Simeon is all right, and you will see Simeon and Joseph, and you will bless the children of Joseph. It came to pass after this manner. When he was dying, he put his hands on the heads of Ephraim and Manasseh, and he said: *The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads.* (Genesis 48:16) *The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous.*

Afternoon Sermon

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous. (Psalm 146:8)

It is no small mercy to have our eyes opened, and to be enabled to say: *One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.* There are none that can open the eyes of the blind but the Lord. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind, but not of all the blind. All sinners in a state of nature are blind, but He does not open the eyes of all. He opens the eyes of the redeemed, those He has loved with an everlasting love, and whom Christ has purchased with His own heart's blood. Sometimes He does it very gradually; at other times it is done in a moment. We dare not set up any standard of experience in this matter. You will find that the Lord works effectually in the hearts of the redeemed. Sometimes it is line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. At other times the thing is done

in a moment. It was done in a moment in the case of Saul of Tarsus. He hated the people of God, but in a moment God struck him down. He began to say: *Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? (Acts 9:6)*

Look again at the dying thief. In a moment his eyes were opened. He reviled God at first, with the other thief, who said: *If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward for our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (Luke 23:39)* He acknowledges in a moment the justness of his sentence. Your eyes have never been opened unless you have justified God in your condemnation. I know what I am speaking about. He justifies God, even though He sends his soul to hell.

*Should sudden vengeance seize my breath,
I must pronounce Thee just in death;
And if my soul were sent to hell,
Thy righteous law approves it well. (Isaac Watts)*

And this Christ of God – He has done nothing amiss. Then the thief pleads with the Lord: *Remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.* He has opened his eyes to see greater things concerning His kingdom than He discovered to His disciples. This dying thief had administered to him an abundant entrance into the kingdom of God's grace. And the Lord answered him: *To day thou shalt be with Me in paradise.* O what a blessed answer!

Persons deny the sovereignty of God. He takes one thief to heaven with Him as a trophy of His grace, but the other is left to sink to hell. The Lord will have mercy upon whom He will have mercy, and when He opens the eyes of the sinner, that sinner feels his need of mercy. O to cry: *God be merciful to me a sinner,* as the publican did when he smote his breast! It is no small mercy to feel yourself a sinner, and to groan under the burden of sin, and to know something of what it is to be bowed down by reason of sin. God has never opened your eyes unless you have known something of the guilt of sin. I will not say to what extent, but to this extent: to make you feel your need of mercy. That sinner knows something of law work. He puts his mouth into the dust, if so be there may be hope.

*All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him. (Joseph Hart)*

As the Lord opens the eyes of a sinner, that sinner feels his need of Him, and sooner or later will live to prove that the Lord raiseth up them that are bowed down. When the Lord opens the eyes of a sinner to behold Jesus Christ, then that sinner is raised up.

David waited patiently for the Lord who brought him up out of the horrible pit, and out of the miry clay, and set his feet upon a rock, and put a new song in his mouth. The Lord knows how to raise up those that are bowed down. He opens their eyes to behold the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is revealed to them, and with the arm of faith they take Christ into their arms, and they know then what it is to taste the salvation of the Lord. O what an unspeakable mercy of mercies to taste that the Lord is gracious! He is gracious to those whose eyes He has opened, and gives to feel their need of Him. He causes them to fear Him, and to pray to Him. He hears their prayers, and delivers their souls. He raises them from the dust of death, and sets their feet upon the rock of eternal ages, and they sing the song which none but the redeemed can sing, even the song of salvation. Every sinner taught by God is enriched by the grace of God, and will pay his vow to the Lord, that salvation is of the Lord. God has never opened your eyes yet to see what a sinner you are, and what a Saviour Christ is, unless you are ready to ascribe salvation unto the Lamb.

Many years since, I preached at a place where one Sunday they used to have a Strict Baptist, another a Wesleyan, and another a General Baptist. Perhaps I have told you before, but it will bear repeating. I remember making this remark. I said, Some ministers may come back here and tell you that God has done His part, and now He has left you to do yours. I said, If there is anything left for you to do, you will be damned. *By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*

(*Ephesians 2:8*) No man can receive the things of God unless God has opened his eyes. I have heard the Rev. Battersby of St. Saviour's, Sheffield say that one man was so offended at his ministry that he went away, and afterwards he wrote and said, What I would not believe in Sheffield God has made me believe in this foreign land. I believe there is a people according to the election of grace. Well I know when I would not believe it, but in God's own good time I was made to believe it. God opens the eyes of the blind in this respect – to make them know the deep things of the kingdom of His grace.

We see light in God's light. *The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him*, and He shows those whose eyes are opened after this manner – their interest in the everlasting covenant, and this becomes all their salvation and their desire. Their bowed down souls are lifted up from the dust of death. And He sets these poor sinners among the princes of His people, that they may inherit a throne of glory. When the Lord lifted up my bowed down soul, I thought I should never doubt again, and that all would be well, and that I should go on my way rejoicing all the days of my life. But grace, though the smallest, must surely be tried. Whatever He has given you, it will be tried. The fire consumes all the dross. How much religion have we when God puts it in the furnace? Sometimes I seem as though I have none. Yet it comes to this:

*As gold from the flame, He'll bring thee at last,
To praise Him for all through which thou hast passed;
Then love everlasting thy griefs shall repay,
And God from thy eyes wipe all sorrows away. (John Kent)*

O it is a mercy of mercies to be in the school of Christ! O it is a mercy to have a grain of grace, and to say experimentally in the language of my text: *The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down*, and to give a reason of the hope that is within you. Do not you find it good sometimes to rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, and to open your mind to those that fear the Lord, and to speak of how He has led you in grace and in providence? How sometimes you have been brought low and He has come to your help, and lifted you up above earth and earthly things. If you are despised and hated because of your religion, yet you are journeying to the place of which the Lord has promised to give you. *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)*

I love to speak of what God has done. Some men like to speak of what they have done for the Lord. I cannot say much about that. I feel a very unprofitable servant, and I wonder that people ever come to hear me. He has not another such unprofitable servant as I am. It seems at times as though I do not serve the Lord, yet I do desire to serve Him. I would be spent in His service. If I be weary in it sometimes, I would not be weary of it. I shall never be able to boast of having done anything for the Lord. I hope the Lord works in me, and I know He works in His people. I love to speak of what He is pleased to do.

Here we have it in the Word of God, in reading this blessed Book. Do not neglect this Book, and you will read of the works of God, and what He does for the children of men, and specially of what He does for His people. He leads them about and instructs them, and keeps them as the apple of His eye. He stirs them up, even as an eagle stirs up her nest. When God does this we think that He is about to make an end of us. I remember many years ago I thought that the Lord was dealing very hard with me, and I was ready to arraign Him at the bar. But He dropped these words into my soul: *For I am with thee to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered them, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished. (Jeremiah 30:11)* Why, in a moment I could see that it was for my good, and I could say, *My Jesus has done all things well.* O I believe that, when we get to heaven:

*Among the rest this note shall swell,
My Jesus has done all things well. (Samuel Medley)*

The Lord raiseth them that are bowed down. Like the poor woman the Lord raised up on the Sabbath day, and He said: *Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? (Luke 13:16)* Do you know what it is to be bound? Do you know what it is to be bowed down by reason of sin, carking cares, unbelief, deadness of heart, darkness of mind? Do you know what it is to be bowed down by reason of these things? Then for the Lord to come and lift you up? Sometimes the Lord speaks a word to you through His servants. You come into the chapel as bowed down as it is possible in soul feeling to be, and ready to say it is no use, I won't go again. I remember once saying this, and the deacon got up and gave out the solemn hymn:

*It is the Lord, enthroned in light,
Whose claims are all divine,
Who has the undisputed right
To govern me and mine. (Thomas Greene)*

It broke me all to pieces in a moment. He opened my eyes, raised up my soul, and I could say that it was all in love, and not in anger. I could justify Him in all His righteous will, and say from my very heart: *Choose Thou the way, and still lead on.*

O what a good God Israel's God is! There is no god like our God, and if an atheist were to put the question at times to me: "Where is thy God?" I should say: "My God is in heaven, and He hath done whatever pleaseth Him. He works His sovereign will –

*In heaven, and earth, and air, and seas,
He executes His firm decrees;
And by His saints it stands confessed,
That what He does is ever best. (Benjamin Beddome)*

Then lastly *The Lord loveth the righteous.* You look at the words, my friends: *The Lord loveth the righteous* – because they are righteous? No, no, no! He loved them when they were in the ruins of the fall, and in their blood. He came on the wings of love to die for them, and to pluck them as brands from the burning.

*Unless the shadow of a spot
Should on my soul be found,
He took the robe the Saviour wrought,
And cast it all around. (Isaac Watts)*

He gave me to taste His love once when I was afflicted. The Lord spoke these words to me: *Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)* His love is Himself. God is love. He rests in His love. He always loves. Does He smite? It is in love. O what a mercy to know it, and to know that we are among the righteous, and that we are covered with the robe of Christ's righteousness! Our righteousness is in heaven, and we shall go to heaven. There is nothing that can separate the righteous from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul speaks in 8th *Romans* – you know how he finishes it all up – *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (v.38,39)* I would know more of this love, friends, but I believe this: If you and I know it and taste it, we shall swim in it to all eternity. May the Lord add His blessing.