

## The Path of the Soul - 4

T160 The Inner Teachings 16th January 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

*No. 4 in the series and based upon St Luke, chapter 5, which should be read together with this record.*

### Invocation:

We leave the earth and all material entanglements and aspire to reach the temple of God deep within our souls. There let us pray in spirit and in truth to the Source of our being, our Creator, Father-Mother God, that we may come to the place of realisation of spiritual truth. We, Thy children, earnestly pray for understanding, for illumination, and for power to serve Thee in the world of man.\* In Thy holy name we call upon the great angels of Christ, the angels of wisdom, love and power. May they be present, and may we feel their presence. May our eyes be opened to the glories of the heavens; then shall we understand Thy peace and Thy love.

Amen.

*[\*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction]*

We advise you always when endeavouring to contact the higher self and the spirit life to see that you are physically comfortable. This is not always understood. To hold communion with spirit you need to rise in spiritual consciousness and to be able to forget the body, and on that higher vibration, heart to heart, receive and give forth again wondrous love, spiritual understanding and communion.

This we speak of because in the water initiation, which we have been discussing, it is vital to learn the necessity for spiritual control of the psychic forces. To do this it is necessary for the soul to be controlled or captained by the spirit of Christ. The Christ, as we told you, is the anointed One – and Christ anoints the soul with the oil of wisdom. Psychic phenomena, psychic experience, psychic contact, if it is to be of spiritual value to the individual must be controlled by the Christ spirit. You will remember the story in the Bible of the boat being tossed about in a storm. The disciples were overcome by a storm (of emotion) until they realised that without the Master they would perish. They called upon the Master, the Christ. The Christ awakens, arises and takes control of the boat (the boat is another symbol for the soul). The Christ becomes captain and he commands the emotional and psychic forces to obey him. He calls upon the storm to be still.

There are many people who enter upon psychic investigation, psychical research and psychical practices without adequate preparation. It is of vital importance for the aspirant to get steady and poised spiritually so that the Master takes control of his psychic forces. Then truth comes through. Teaching such as this underlies all the teaching of the Master, but only a few have been able to unveil these truths, expressed in symbols for those on the outer plane. People apply the letter of the truth to their lives and gain a certain amount of help, but until they learn to unveil the symbolism of the mysteries inherent in the teachings of Christ they cannot get their full power and miss their true implications.

At our last talk we dealt with the three temptations which all aspirants for the water initiation have to undergo. After the soul has conquered these temptations it returns to its home or

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appointed place in life and there it is filled with the power of the spirit and has to preach the gospel of truth. Now, how does it preach this wonderful gospel of truth? Not by words alone; its work is to preach the gospel. Words are insufficient to convey divine truth. Already there are many, many people who by writing and talking are endeavouring to teach others. But words cannot alone convey truth, which is of the spirit. So the initiate has to become a power in daily life, and without words, without preaching, without speaking, by the emanations of his soul, he teaches, he preaches the gospel, conveying truth by his inherent spiritual power and Christliness to his fellow beings.

People who are blessed in this way we know by their fruits. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' This means the manifestation of the spirit of Christ, the measure of radiance which the soul gives forth. From some people you can receive a great deal without many words being spoken. Such persons are often retiring and certainly humble, gentle and tender, but have within the power of the spirit. Therefore they are continually giving forth this light and so they heal the sick (the sick in mind as well as in body) and they preach the gospel, comfort the mourner and raise those who are downcast in spirit. They are also giving riches to the poor. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,' the Christ said. Who are these poor in spirit? These are they who have reached that point in spiritual development at which they are ready to receive and absorb spiritual truth and light from an initiate, one who has passed the water initiation, which means one who has learned to discipline and control emotion, who can distinguish between what is real and what is unreal, between that which is worthy and that which is worthless; one who can distinguish between light and darkness, truth and falsehood, reality and unreality. Such a one is radiating true power, spiritual light, Christlikeness, and the poor in spirit is the soul ready to absorb the radiance of the soul of the initiate. Blessed are they!

There are many, many souls who are not yet ready, have not yet earned the name of 'poor in spirit'. They are still arrogant and do not want to hear. Instead, they laugh and scoff at spiritual truth and spiritual power. They are only interested in their business or the things of this world. But the poor in spirit are able to recognise God; they see God shining through the soul of the water initiate.

The initiate is also able to heal the sick. Power is given unto him. Again it is not always by words. At night when the body is asleep his spirit goes forth. 'At even when the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around Thee lay.' When you desire to heal the sick, to give comfort to the lonely, if you will meditate upon this act of healing before you sleep you will leave your body. Although you may be unconscious of it, the light of the Christ in your soul will be imparted to the sick one on earth and it will be this Light which will heal. Do not forget; at eventide when you leave your body asleep, having first held communion with Christ, go forth. You will be filled with power.

'The poor in spirit.' Many people have pondered on the meaning of these words. We think that there are many, many poor in spirit at this present time and all of you here have a great work, not necessarily by preaching from a platform or pulpit but by putting into your life and your everyday material work the power of Christ. With Christ anything can be accomplished. The mistake that people make is to depend upon their own power alone. The secret is to enter

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the closet, the inner self, the place of tranquillity and stillness and there pray—or in other words stand on the side and let the God power work through the medium of the mind and the soul and the body. Then there is nothing which cannot be accomplished, because whatever has to be done is to the glory of God. We mean by this that the soul able to commune with God in spirit and in truth is ready for God to manifest through him and therefore only the finest, the most selfless and the greatest work is done for the good of the whole community, of the whole universe, for the good of eternity and infinity.

‘To give sight to the blind.’ You are taught that a number of the Master’s miracles were concerned with the healing of the blind. The blind represent those people who long to understand spiritual truth. While their souls yearn for love they cannot feel it, they cannot give it, and they do not understand what spiritual truth means. They do not know that there are worlds around them of great beauty and truth. They do not know that they live in a world of spiritual glory. They are blind. What wonderful work it is to be able to open the eyes of those who dwell in darkness and show them that there is no death and there need be no separation of loved ones when the spirit leaves the physical body! This is the work of those who have passed the water initiation, those who have controlled the psychic forces, those able to see truly into the other worlds and to convey their vision of truth to others.

Many waste a lot of force trying to convince others about the spirit world. This is not wise. There is no need to convince anybody. The best work is to give forth that power which teaches the soul when it is once ready to learn. If it is not ready no power on earth will make it ready. All is a question of evolution, of spiritual awakening. There is a time for these things. Once the individual has earned the right to know spiritual truth the teacher will be forthcoming. Many people get excited and long to meet a master in the physical body. They are often very disappointed at their failure. But when the candidate, when the aspirant is ready, the Master will be there. When the soul has reached that point when it can recognise the Master, the Master will manifest because the soul itself has created the conditions necessary to receive from the Master the illumination, the teaching, the comfort, the help that it requires for the next step on the path of spiritual illumination.

So it is a great work to heal the blind, to convey to them the light through the power of the Christ spirit within. Do we make ourselves quite clear? We beg your forgiveness if we labour the point but spiritual truth can be repeated again and again and again with profit. It is not the speech, it is not only the thoughts—it is the inner self which becomes so powerful and so Christlike that it conveys the healing, the teaching, the blessing. This cannot be superficial. It comes from God himself within the soul and therefore is eternal and infinite. Within every soul dwells God, but there are many layers to be peeled off before the God can shine forth. Those who are a little more advanced than others are able to help their brethren divest themselves of some of these outer coverings.

There are other miracles (so-called) performed by Christ. Once we are told the disciples had been out fishing all night and had caught nothing. Jesus met them the next morning and he told them to go out in their boat again and fish in deeper water.

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*(Reading: Luke 5, vs. 1-11)*

The symbolism of this story is that these men were searching for spiritual truth, but they were fishing in darkness and so unable to catch any. The next morning when they were washing their nets Jesus came to them. (The nets are symbolic of the mind, the intellect.) They were turning it all over again in their mind. They were going through it all again. Jesus said to them, 'Launch out, go out into deeper waters. Do not try to catch spiritual truth in the shallows; go into the deeps. Then you will get spiritual truth.' When they put their nets down into the sea they caught so many fish (so much spiritual truth) that their mind, their intellect, could not hold it all and so the nets commenced to break. This is indicative of the importance of the mind and reasoning power being developed. Some people who are not developed mentally embark upon psychic investigation and draw in so much truth that their mind cannot cope with it and they become unbalanced.

There is much symbolism in these miracles and parables in the Bible. The boat again is the soul, the nets are the mind and the fish are the spiritual truths which are to be caught. The Master is telling the disciples how best to catch spiritual truth. Then there are the miracles of healing. In the one about casting out devils, the same symbolism is expressed. When the soul has passed the water initiation, when it has learned how to control the astral forces, then that soul has power to cast out evil things (or devils as they are called). 'I command you to leave this body.' The words are words of power which the water initiate is able to use and thus cast out obsessing influences.

Q. Can you teach us anything more about the three beatitudes: 'Blessed are the meek; Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are the peacemakers'?

A. The 'meek' are the gentle, the quiet, the tranquil. The others may make a tremendous noise of conflict and wars but the one who holds fast to the spirit of God within triumphs over all turmoil. The meek shall inherit everything, for the meek belong to everything; they merge into all life. Do you see what we are endeavouring to convey? Meekness is God-power. To the one who is meek and lowly God enters; God gives him everything that is needed. The meek in spirit become Godlike, therefore they inherit the whole of life. 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me'—it is the same thing.

'Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.' Mercy shall be shown to them. They merge into God and God into them.

'Blessed are the peacemakers'—the tranquil ones, those who are calm and peaceful. They are children of God. They are expressions of God. There is the same interpretation for all the beatitudes—the merging of God into man. It is Christ in you.

These Biblical miracles and parables are understood by the soul who has mastered the lower mind, the psychic and the astral worlds, and has gained the water initiation. Next is the air initiation. We are trying to show you what these four initiations mean in everyday life and

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how you are all preparing for or passing in your life the water, the air, the fire and the earth initiations. These are stated in their correct order.

Q. How far should we regard the stories in the Bible as historic records of fact?

A. There is no doubt that they are historical records of the Teacher. But in the main we think it is more important to take the mystical interpretation because this can help your spiritual unfoldment and service, whereas if you cling to historical records they remain historical, something of interest but nothing more. But the mystical interpretation can be applied to life *now*—and in five or ten thousand years' time. It is always helpful and it is *the* truth for all aspirants. The record of the life of the Master Jesus and all his experiences is really the story of every man's life or the path of every aspirant towards heavenly illumination. The records have a bearing on actual happenings on earth but we do not think that that matters very much; it is not so important as the mystical interpretation of these records as it applies to man's unfoldment. Everything that happens has a spiritual origin. The earthly manifestation is the result of spiritual happening, spiritual activity shall we say, but the spiritual activity is the most important. There is manifestation the whole time on the earth of the invisible forces. Nevertheless there are some people who say that there is very little material evidence of the life and the ministry of Jesus. We say that Jesus lived and served and healed the sick.

### Benediction:

We await the blessing of the Most High. May we be filled with the power of Thy love; and we pray that Thy kingdom may come on earth and we pray that we may realise how important our life is towards the coming of Thy kingdom.

Amen. Goodnight.

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*Mystic, mastery, service, evolution, development, balance*