

# Thy Will be Done

A240 Sunday Address 4th May 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

*Text:* another of the now-familiar blue typescripts by MB, a top copy. The title has been created for this project. The script is mostly unparagraphed.

*Context:* the festival of Wesak fell five days after this service but does not seem to have featured. The reading is given as Matthew 17 : 14-27, which covers the feeding of the five thousand, and the first few verses of Jesus walking on the water. There is no note of an anthem. A hymn apparently stressed the line in the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy will be done'. Almost certainly this was the hymn, 'My God, my Father, make me strong' which uses those four words as a refrain. It was written by Frederick Mann (1846-1928) and would almost certainly have been sung to the tune, *Es ist kein Tag*.

*General Notes:* this is a fascinating discussion of the principle, 'Thy will be done', taking the temptations of Jesus as a principal text. White Eagle makes one error, if the Gospel story is correct, in giving the words 'What is truth?' to Jesus when they were recorded as the words of Pilate. It does not affect the point he is making. Interestingly White Eagle nowhere refers back to the stories in the reading – the feeding of the five thousand and the walking on the water, though both would be apposite. It would seem that he felt that the stories in the reading, which relate to positive demonstration of faith, spoke for themselves.

Some of what White Eagle says might be taken as a comment on the so-called Law of Attraction.

*References:* the temptations of Jesus occur in all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew 4, Mark 1 and Luke 4. The words, 'not my will, O Lord, but Thy Will be done', however, were spoken by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion – see Luke 22 : 42. 'Thy faith hath made thee whole', Jesus's words to the woman with the issue of blood, is Matthew 9 : 22 and Mark 5 : 34 – and, as part of a different story, Luke 17 : 19.

## White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we speak to you not from the earthly intellect, but from the spirit. We speak to you from the world of spirit and, when we come into contact with physical matter and with you who are in a physical body, we long to help you to help yourselves. Of course you know that it is not really help to have your lessons taken away from you. It is not true help to evade karma, the law of karma; indeed, that is impossible. It cannot be avoided. It has to be accepted. Knowing this, the brethren on our side, the White Brethren, long to help each one of you to meet life's challenge. We long to help you to comprehend the inner meaning of the teachings of Christ, the cosmic Christ, the teachings which have come through a number of channels, physical human channels to the earth plane. But all these teachings come from the Central Truth, from the heart of the Son of God, the heart of the Christ. If we can help you to comprehend the inner meaning of the words of Jesus the Christ we shall be grateful.

We were listening to the words you were singing, a very beautiful hymn which instructed you to accept the Will of God: 'Thy Will be done'. There are some people on earth who take exception to this injunction. They say; 'Oh, that is not good, just to sit down and say God's Will be done and allow all the sufferings to exist'. But this is not the meaning of the words, 'Thy Will be done'. It does not mean that man must accept all those sufferings of humanity and do nothing to alleviate his brother man's sufferings. That is not the true meaning of this phrase. The man who can accept truly those words, 'Thy Will be done' has reached a definite point on the spiritual evolutionary path. A point at which he knows that God's Will for mankind is that he should bring through into manifestation in physical life the beauty, the

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truth, the glory of the Christ spirit. And the Will of God is that man on earth should learn to live in accordance with spiritual law – and, in so doing, he will bring into operation in human life the Will of God, which is [that] man should live in harmony, at peace and in brotherhood with his fellows.

And we speak of these few words; ‘Thy Will be done’, because it has a most important bearing on the central theme of our talk tonight, for we are basing the whole of this service upon the one word – *faith*. Now you hear a lot of expressions about having faith. If you have faith, all will be well. If you have faith you can command all that you want in this physical life of yours. But it is not quite like this. We will explain to you that as soon as man steps upon the spiritual path of evolution he commences to be tested and tried. In other words he has to realise that he has stepped into a wilderness and the wilderness is very largely within his own heart. It is true that when you first receive the blessing of spiritual power, when you have passed through that wonderful experience in which you are elated and stimulated in the higher consciousness, you feel that you have at last found the truth. You have found an answer to all your questions. In other words, you have found your God.

And every living soul knowingly or unknowingly is in search of this experience, this knowledge, this certainty; that there is a living and a sustaining power and a loving power; that there is a power which enfolds him in his hour of need, a power that will always come to his aid. And then such a one begins to take, perhaps unconsciously – nevertheless he takes advantage of that spiritual power, that power of God, thinking that he can command according to his own will exactly what he wishes to have on earth. And when man does this, he realises very quickly that he is wandering in the wilderness, the wilderness of his own confusion, because at that moment he knows that he has lost his God. He has lost contact with that spiritual power, that joy, that peace, that certainty that God is always with him. Many of you will understand this as a personal experience. You know that there are times when you feel that the heavens are as brass and that you can get no response at all from God or from your spirit companions, or guides, or loved ones on our side of life. You are in the wilderness of doubt and fear. You have cut yourself off from the source of supply. This is an experience which every human soul must pass through in order to learn the true meaning of faith. Faith is an inner knowing and it can only come to you through trial and temptation.

You will begin to understand that we are speaking about the temptations of Jesus the Christ. He had to go through these sufferings. He had to wander in the wilderness, and the devil or Satan came to him and tempted him. Now Satan or the devil is the earthly mind. It is the lower mind of man, and as soon as man steps upon this spiritual path he is assailed by this so-called devil – his own lower nature – and it commences to argue with man. It takes him up into the high places. Now the high place in man is a higher consciousness, and these temptations in this higher consciousness are very subtle. Man has to learn discrimination and discernment. He has to learn when it is the lower mind, even on a higher level of consciousness which is tempting him either to use, if he can, his spiritual powers for his own ends or else deny the power of God, his Creator. The human soul at this stage of his spiritual unfoldment thinks that he is much stronger than he actually is. God tempts, tests and tries him

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and brings him right down to his knees in true humility. And when this happens to the soul, then it begins to see a glimmer of light, begins to understand that he must resign his will and desire to the love of God.

It is very easy for us to talk about these things, to just pour forth words to you, but what we so earnestly seek to do is to help you to understand in your daily life that what you must discern is the difference between self-will and God's Will. Remember, in the temptations, Jesus was commanded. He heard the command in his earthly mind, 'Command this stone to be made into bread'. Now, Jesus was hungry, but it was not the hunger of the physical body. This is how it is usually interpreted. We say to you that it was the hunger of the soul. It was longing for the Bread of Life, for the love of God. It was a longing to feel that God was near, the same as you in your hour of trial and temptation or sorrow, bereavement and hardship, you long for the Bread of God. You long to know that God is near. But what the soul has to learn is this, that God is near. You do not need to turn stones into bread. God will feed you at the right time and in His own way, not in your way. You would command the spirit.

The stone, in some interpretations of the scriptures, means Christ. Christ is the cornerstone of the temple. Commanding the stone into bread is to command the spirit of Christ to do what you want instead of humbly resigning yourself to the Will of the Father, as Christ Himself did, and continually explained to his disciples. And he is continually explaining this inner truth to his disciples today. You are the disciples of the cosmic Christ. He knows your longing and your need. He knows the difficulty in your daily life, the apparent injustice. He knows the hurts. He knows when you are overwrought either physically, mentally or materially. He *knows*, and this is what you must know, and this is faith. Faith is an inner knowing that God is with you and that His Will is for your good.

He is all love and wisdom and He is all power – not the power of the earth, nor the power which earthly possessions gives, but the power of the spirit, the power which cannot be handled nor seen; the power which is life, the power which is truth. Truth is Christ. If you know truth, you know Christ within. If you have Christ active within you, you are true. You must be true because Christ is truth. When Jesus came before Pontius Pilate, he said, 'What is truth?' He did not say 'I am Truth', that is for His followers to discern and to know. Christ is truth. Christ within you is the truth within, and if Christ within you is growing and unfolding, you never lack faith, because faith is that power in you by which you know, without question, without allowing this physical mind, this physical brain to interfere. Now we must help you to be strong in faith and in truth.

What does faith tell you? Your faith tells you that God is the source of your life. Do not separate the material from the spiritual. Remember that all the material things on this earth, all forms of matter, are all forms of God. You cannot extricate God from any material thing. God gives because it is necessary for you to have God's gifts. God withdraws those gifts when it is necessary to do so – or, in other words, when their usefulness to you as a spiritual being has ceased. Now you can apply this lesson to your everyday life, accepting the Will of God. That is His gift and his taking away. Know always that God is all power and love and

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His will for you is that divine law, spiritual law, should operate in your life. His Will for you is that you may learn by a series of lessons, tests and trials how to operate this divine law in your life. But remember this, 'not my will, O Lord, but Thy Will be done'. The human soul is very eager and – not meaning to be – is arrogant. It does not understand that it is arrogant: it is the eagerness to progress, to grow, but in its eagerness it takes little side-turnings off the path and it has to return again to the main track. This is what is happening to you in your life until you have reached the age of wisdom. Until you know that God is all wise. Then you have faith. When an individual has faith, it has everything. 'Thy faith hath made thee whole'. You know that God's Will for you is perfection of health, of life.

Now there are some people on the earth who are trying to put their own will into operation. They are making demands, or they are using what they think is their occult power to bring themselves what they want, what they think they want. They think that by so doing that they are making spiritual progress. Remember in your prayers to be very careful how you pray and always remember to say 'Thy Will be done, not my will', because you can use spiritual law, occult we prefer to call it, an occult law to bring into operation, to bring to you those things which you want. But if you do, those things will bring with them a pretty severe lesson. Now if this happens to you cast your mind back to what we are saying tonight. So we know that we should not try to demand for ourselves. God only knows what is good for us. Now Jesus learnt this important lesson in those temptations which confronted him. But he overcame the temptations of the lower self and was strong in spirit. Then he went forth to receive the blessing of his Father before entering upon his divine mission.

Now these temptations which come to every soul in due time, they may be hard. They may take from you all that the world holds dear and you feel bereft. You have lost all contact with God, but it is only for a time, for that spiritual power is, shall we say, damned up. It is repressed, but it is collecting ready to go forth again just as Jesus went forth upon his divine mission after he had successfully passed through his temptations. Now all that we are saying to you tonight [is that] these profound truths come to you in very simple language [and] are the truths which every soul has to learn before he is initiated in what is known to some people as the water initiation. It is the emotional nature which is so tried and tested.

You know that all these things we have been saying to you are all wrapped up in your emotional nature, your desire nature – the desire for goods, the desire for material things, desire perhaps for spiritual things – but it is the desire nature that is being so severely tested and the spirit of Christ has to overcome all these lower desires and demands. In other words, every soul has to learn to gently and lovingly accept God's Will and know or have faith that whatever seems to go wrong for human beings is good and will eventually bring to the human life untold blessing, indescribable illumination, perfect inner peace and thankfulness.

Oh, be thankful! Will you remember this? If you remember nothing else of what we have said to you tonight, be thankful for everything that comes to you. It is the gift of the heavens, and it has a wise purpose: whether what you receive is sweet or bitter, it is good.

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Now, my children, when you can truly and humbly say that you have faith, you have the key of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our love, great love, to every one of you. And God blesses you.

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:*

*trust in God, tests, challenges, initiation, mindfulness, flowing, acceptance, inner truth, light within, attraction*

