

The Good Shepherd

A282 Sunday Address 5th February 1956 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

Text: like the last, a blue carbon copy in the style of MB. This time there is no printed version known. The address has been given the title, 'The Good Shepherd', for the current project. It is suggested that the word typed as 'sect' at the beginning of the sixth paragraph should have read 'set'.

Context: Sunday Service, just after Candlemas. The typist describes the reading as having been 'The Story of The Good Shepherd from the Aquarian Gospel. 10th chapter St. John.' That it was about the Good Shepherd is reiterated during the address. It is not clear if the typist's words imply that the Aquarian Gospel story relates to the relevant verses of John 10, or whether both were read out, but it is probably the latter, to judge from the references identified below. White Eagle speaks with enthusiasm of the congregation's reaction to the hymn just sung, but frustratingly we do not know what the hymn was.

General Notes: there is quite an unusual response at the outset to the question of 'getting beyond personalities'. White Eagle seems to be in a good humour, because he is able to respond quite lightly to those who are not looking towards initiation, or do not think they are. 'Every one, sooner or later, arrives at the Temple of Initiation'. Thereafter, almost the whole of the address centres on the account of the good shepherd, who knows his sheep, and what this means. At the end, the discussion of the good shepherd turns into a short communion.

References: John 10, which may have formed part of the reading, is the account of Jesus as the door into the sheepfold, with its warnings about entering falsely. In the Aquarian Gospel, the parable of the Good Shepherd is to be found in chapter 131, but 'I am the shepherd of the sheep', which is a better comparison, is chapter 139. Referring to the story in John, White Eagle quotes 'I am the Gate' ('door' in KJV) (10 : 7) and 'I am the Good Shepherd, and I know my sheep' (10 : 11, 27). White Eagle is keen to separate these references from ideas of sheep and goats in Matthew 25. 'Except ye become as a little child' is Matthew 18 : 3. The idea of reaping what you sow is found at Galatians 6 : 7. The account of the thieves and robbers who try to crash the gates of heaven occurs several times in John 10. 'I am the resurrection and the life' is John 11 : 25.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved ones, we speak to you on behalf of the group of spirits who come with us. We bring you a message of love and power.

It was gratifying that you caught the thought of the last hymn. That particular hymn you must all find most helpful if you sing it from your hearts, and with meaning. As you do this you are opening your heart chakra and your head chakra, just as a flower, a lotus flower, opens to the sun. When you do this in a service of this nature you have prepared yourselves to receive the power and the glory of that other world which you, most all of you, believe exists. Not all of you can feel. Not all of you can be sure that this world of spirit is close to you and that you can hold communion with it, not only with loved ones but with initiates and angels; the great company of the celestial spheres who do not live unto themselves, who do not live to glorify themselves and enjoy their own happiness. They find happiness in helping you, in helping the coming of the Kingdom of God upon your earth plane.

Now, there are some people, indeed, we have seen and heard their remarks: they say that when you are progressing along the spiritual path you want to get away from personalities. You want to get beyond personalities. Well, we think that we understand what they mean by

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getting beyond a personality, but they are not quite right. Altogether they are not quite right in that remark. They forget that God uses personalities. God manifests to all His children through a personality.

When you arrive in the spirit world you will find yourself very similar to what you are now. And if you met no personality there you would feel rather lonely and lost. However beautiful the scenery, however beautiful the music and the colour, if you found yourself utterly and completely alone without a personality or personalities to befriend you, you would not be in a state of heaven or happiness; quite the reverse.

And again, let us review the great personalities known on your earth and see how these people – whoever, whatever they are, whether they are artists, inventors, scientists or musicians – whatever they are, their personality has a great influence upon the earth plane and most particularly the personalities of spiritual leaders.

Teachers throughout the ages have come to the earth with a particular message to help a certain sect [set?] of people in the particular way they needed help. At the time they were ready for a certain revelation, perhaps on the conduct of life or a revelation of the spiritual aspect of life. Nevertheless, what they needed they received from a personality who was used by God to help His people. It is a great pity that people at the present time have grown away from the Christian Bible. We do not say that the Bible is the only Book. There are scriptures under other names. Nevertheless, the Christian Bible contains esoteric truth of the most profound nature put in the simplest language. But it requires an earnest soul, a searching soul to discover the truth, the beautiful truth which is contained in the Bible. The Old Testament, although the language may not be attractive to modern thought, nevertheless the Old Testament is full of esoteric and occult teaching. Knowledge is there which was taught in the temples for many ages and is still being taught in the Inner Temples today.

In the four gospels you have the perfect message for the would-be initiate. Now, you may reply to us that you have no wish to be an initiate. You are an ordinary, simple man or woman. All you want to do is to live as good a life as you can to help your fellow creatures and to prepare yourself for a fuller life after the initiation of death. Well, dear ones, our answer to that very sensible retort is that, whilst you are living the ordinary life of every day, you are preparing yourself to become that initiate – because everyone, sooner or later, arrives at the Temple of Initiation. You may be very concerned with life as you find it on earth. You may be very concerned with many problems, material problems, problems of physical health, problems spiritual. Many and varied problems may trouble you and you may not want to be bothered with thinking about initiation or spiritual attainment. Life is quite enough for you to get on with as it presents itself to you day by day! But we would just like to explain to you here, that God has placed within you a key by which you may unlock your prison and let yourself free. We do not mean free by passing away from your physical body. We mean free by being able to release yourself from your material self, from your physical self and the heaviness of the earthly life. Free in that you can soar on to high planes and gather knowledge which will enable you, if not to solve your problems, at all events to have strength to deal with them so that they no longer imprison you and enslave you by chains, which is what material thought does to you.

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We guided the reading. We asked for the particular reading tonight. We had in mind the thought of the Good Shepherd. It sounds rather childlike, doesn't it? Probably, when you were children you went to the child's school, the primary school. You would learn about the Good Shepherd. You would probably see a very nice picture of the Good Shepherd and that thought would be like a seed sown in your heart. As you grew up, the idea of the Good Shepherd faded away like other fairy stories you were wont to hear when you were a child.

You know, He who is the Good Shepherd said, 'Except ye become as a little child, ye shall in no way enter the Kingdom of Heaven'.

In our reading tonight you will remember the words occurring: 'I am the Gate. I am the Good Shepherd and I know my sheep'. Don't be deterred by the orthodox interpretation of those profound words. Immediately you know, when you think of the Shepherd and the sheep and the goats, you get into your mind an idea of a lovely flock of people being separated; the goats being segregated to one side and the sheep to the other. That is entirely wrong. You must get that picture right out of your minds. What we would like to put in instead is the picture of the personality of Jesus.

Now this is why we have spoken to you about personalities. Personalities will mean a great deal when you pass hence into the world of spirit. If you have tried to overcome and get beyond all personality, you will find you will have to retrace your steps and become as a little child. You will have to learn to love personalities because God manifests through his children. Jesus was a great personality, the greatest personality through whom God manifested. Jesus means the Saviour.

Now, there are many, many spiritual people, our Spiritualist friends, who reject the idea of a Saviour. It does not appeal to their reason. They say, man does not need any man to save him, he can save himself. Man is personally responsible. He has to answer for his actions.

That is true. Man is governed by a law, by a spiritual law – a spiritual law which is just and perfect and true. Man cannot escape his actions because he sets in motion certain forces which bring to him the result. He must face that result. Law governs life, spiritual law, but we have to learn this law. We have to understand this spiritual law, and then we do not set in motion the wrong set of forces – that is, if we do not wish to suffer unnecessarily. And believe us, dear children, God does not want anyone to suffer unnecessarily. But experience is the only thing which brings home to the soul a lesson needed.

Lessons have to be learned. This is why we from the spirit world so often say to you, we cannot interfere with man's karma. We cannot. Whatever you draw to yourself, what you sow, so you must reap. We cannot interfere. We cannot say, 'No, you must not do this or do the other'. We can place before you principles. We can give a little guidance as to what might happen. What we always say to you is 'follow the inner light'.

What is the inner light? It is the Gate. Jesus said: 'I am the Gate'. He meant the spirit within you, within me, within everyone. 'I AM' is the spirit. 'I AM' is the Gate. Jesus said, 'I AM. I

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AM the Gate'. And then he spoke of the brigand and the thief who slipped in or tried to get in at the sheep; tried to get into Heaven by another way. This has puzzled people for many years, for a long time. What does it mean, the thief, the brigand, trying to crash the Gates of Heaven? May we tell you in all earnestness, my children, that there are many brigands and thieves today who are trying to get into heaven by crashing the gates, climbing over the gates, over the fences, trying to get in any way but through the gate. The thieves can be likened to those very clever people who place all their confidence in their physical brains and in their physical intellects. There are many people in psychic science, and we say this because we must say it to you, many people in the world of psychical research who are trying to jump over the gates into heaven instead of proceeding in an orderly and correct way through the gate.

Now, we are not orthodox, and we are not by any means preaching orthodoxy to you. But we want you to see the truth – that the way into heaven, or to the inner worlds, into the psychic worlds, into the spiritual worlds, is by the way of the spirit. Jesus is a symbol of the spirit. Those who seek knowledge, those who seek vision, those who seek proof of life after death, those who seek psychically, are those people who pass through the Gate of the Spirit. There is much confusion in the world because people are trying to jump over the fence instead of passing through the gate.

Read that chapter. We think it is the 10th chapter of St. John. Read it when you get home. Study it. Meditate upon it and you will see how clear the meaning is. There is only one way to spiritual truth and this is by the way of the innermost spirit. It is the way that Jesus taught, or rather Christ Jesus, the Christ through the personality of Jesus. Christ, to become 'Christed' means to arrive at that point where you become attuned [to] or at one with the Holy Spirit. The Saviour is the spirit. Christ means the anointed one; the one who is anointed by the Holy Spirit, and whose eyes are opened to the treasures of that inner world.

We speak of the spirit world. We would say that there are many spheres in that spirit world. As the soul or the spirit proceeds into the innermost heart of that inner world he reaches the heart of God, of Christ. For the correct approach to the inner mysteries, the true spiritual mysteries, one must follow the Good Shepherd who knoweth his sheep. His is the voice that sounds within your breast. 'I AM the resurrection and the Life.' Think of these beautiful words and what they mean: the resurrection and the life eternal. 'I AM the resurrection and the life. I AM the beautiful Shepherd and I know my sheep. But there are other sheep who are not of my fold, but they will hear my voice and they will know and will follow.' Who are the other sheep who are not of His fold, of Jesus' fold? They are those good souls who have had no opportunity of meeting his personality, who know nothing about Jesus at all, who lived before Jesus ever manifested on the physical plane. What is to happen to the millions of souls who had not opportunity on this earth of hearing the words of Jesus? They are the sheep of other folds, but they are following the same Shepherd because they follow the spirit.

What He is trying to convey to you all is that it does not matter who you are or what you are if you follow the true spirit of Christ in your heart, if you obey your spirit – not the mind, which will so often lead you to destruction. Obey the inner spirit. And this is what many souls have done who have never even heard on this earth plane the name of Jesus; but they

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have followed Him because they have followed His spirit; the one true spirit which speaks the same language throughout the ages, the same simple language. It does not need to be wrapped up in a quantity of words. Some people think today that the more difficult they can make their sentences, the cleverer they are. But the more simple your language, the more powerful you are and the greater wisdom you show. But first and foremost you must follow the spirit, for the spirit is the gateway into all the mysteries of the spiritual life, indeed into all the mysteries of nature too. Not by mind alone, but through the heart man expands in wisdom and knowledge and arrives home again at last to his Father in Heaven, bringing with him the golden harvest of his labours.

Now, dear ones, we want you just now to close your eyes to all physical objects. Open your spiritual vision; the inner vision created through your power of intellect, and see the Presence in form of Jesus – Jesus, the personality through whom the anointed One, the Christ, has ever manifested for the last two thousand years. He comes now into your midst saying, ‘I am your Good Shepherd and I feed you. I feed all my sheep. Take from me the symbol of the Bread and eat – my Bread, the symbol of my cosmic body.’ He holds up to you, to you my brother and my sister, the Wine, the goblet of Wine. Sip this Wine spiritually and feel the power of His spirit flow into you. ‘I AM with you always. I am the Shepherd beautiful, and I know my sheep for they humbly follow the spirit within them.’

And the blessing of our Lord, the Cosmic Christ, the Creator, be upon you, sustain you and bless you through all your life.

AMEN.

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:

transformation during physical life, not after death; initiations occur in material world, childlike simplicity, spirit needs no language, communion with those in other dimensions, cosmic Christ