

Teachings of Jesus

T211 The Inner Teachings 31st July 1951 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

We pray to our Father–Mother God. We seek knowledge of Thee. O Thou who art the Source of life, of all being, we seek to worship in spirit and in truth, and in the name of our Lord the Christ, we pray that the angels of light and wisdom, love and power may encircle this group. May each heart be touched by the light and the truth of the Christ, and may every soul present move nearer to the realisation of the Christ within their hearts.

Amen.

Our short talk will deal with a question which was put at our last meeting, when it was asked why Jesus Christ gave so little information about the life after death. This seeming omission has puzzled many people who, for this reason, disbelieve in communion and communication from those in the higher state of life.

We shall now endeavour to explain that although Jesus did not use the specific words ‘the afterlife,’ nevertheless his whole teaching was to help his followers to comprehend all life—not only in a body on this earth but as a whole. He said, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind ... and thy neighbour as thyself,’ the whole of life being based upon these two laws. People are mistaken when they think of the spirit world as being something outside, something beyond this present life. We all talk about a life beyond; we use certain words loosely and thereby convey a wrong meaning. But Jesus endeavoured to teach his disciples that there was neither a ‘here’ nor a ‘there’—or, in other words there was no hereafter but all was present—Omnipresent—God ever present.

You are perhaps aware that the astral plane, the etheric, the mental, the celestial—all these planes interpenetrate. Yet you cannot understand what this means, being so limited by a *mental* conception as to the nature of space and time. It is therefore impossible for you to recognise the profound truth inherent in the teachings of Jesus.

We told you in our last talk about certain glorious states of consciousness which man can attain. (Perhaps ‘spheres’ is not a very good word so we confine ourselves to the phrase ‘states of consciousness’.) You are aware that as you sit here you are conscious, if you wish, of your body. If you want to reach out, you can be conscious of your emotional body. That is, your emotions become stirred and your desires active. This quickens the astral state of life which is governed by feeling, by emotion. Then again you can reach out above the emotions; you can by an effort of will become active on the mental plane. You can even go beyond that mental conception when the higher emotions come into operation and you become conscious of a heavenly state.

So when you sit to meditate upon spiritual things you usually go through this process of being first conscious of the body (which can be very troublesome until you, by your will, control this body). Then your feelings become active, perhaps stimulated by music or by words. Then you are being raised in consciousness but you are still within yourself. Step by step you go through the varying states of consciousness to the mental and the heavenly. When you once

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reach the heavenly state, although you are still fully aware of your inner being, of your higher self or your soul, you are also aware of heavenly things. This is made clear to you first of all by light. You feel lighter, more radiant. Something in you activates the physical vehicle, the nervous system. You experience a telepathic communication between the heavenly self or the heavenly state of consciousness and your body. In the degree you become aware of the body you feel a heaviness, the pull of the earth.

This is because you have both stimulated that heavenly consciousness and also linked the heavenly with the earth life. So in time you become pulled back. Yet the one life contains all these states of consciousness. What happens when you are unable to sustain life in the body any longer? Then the spirit withdraws and death takes place, the body being only an envelope or clothing to the spirit. But you remain still exactly the same as when you have a body attached to your soul and spirit.

Now Jesus, knowing all these things of which we have spoken, was not concerned at all with teaching his disciples about a 'here' and a 'hereafter.' Having seen the whole truth, he tried to convey to his hearers that all truth is contained within one simple word—love. Many people have no patience with this doctrine, yet are aware that Jesus said, 'Love one another.' 'Love is the fulfilling of the law.' Love is so simple and yet the hardest thing of all to accomplish.

Jesus was not wholly concerned with the spirit world, nor yet with the physical or intellectual life or the emotional or celestial life. He was concerned with life *as a whole*. He did not divide it up into segments. He had learned the secret of a perfect life. More than this, he had learned the secret of control over *all* aspects of himself. In him was no separation. The Christ within revealed the whole of life, of universal life. Therefore there was no need for him to speak about a 'hereafter'. To him, death did not exist. Life was eternal.

We told you at our last talk that every individual has power within him, within her, to discover these realms of consciousness, joy and peace. First of all there must come a withdrawal from the material and physical state: that is, that state of consciousness must lie in abeyance. In the process of reaching self-mastery, the physical state of life must be trained to lie in abeyance; also the emotional, the desire, the mental state must be trained to be quiescent, and so right up to where the Christ state becomes supreme. A clairvoyant will see it like this: high above the physical form appears the higher form of man, the higher body. We are trying to explain a profound truth in simple language. That higher self reveals the perfect self, the perfect form, shall we call it 'the individual Christ form'? It is beautiful, beautiful, yet retains the same physical features, so is recognisable. But we see in the physical replica a darkness, a heaviness, in many instances an 'ugliness', and this has been drawn to it by the mind of earth, by the mind which urges the individual to live a selfish life, not a selfless one. So we see that the physical counterpart of the heavenly form gradually becomes ugly, diseased and old. We are not blaming or condemning anyone, but endeavouring to show you that when the individual has attained mastery on all the planes, that physical body will change. It will no longer appear old, nor wear marks of selfishness, greed, jealousy and cruelty. What we tell you is true. You know because you can see for yourselves these marks

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of the adversary, the adversary being those impulses which fight with the soul to keep it anchored to earth.

To get liberation from this earthly state the individual must practise and live the teaching of the Christ. Jesus, knowing truth, having prepared a physical vehicle, brought it to a state of perfection, a state of equilibrium or self-mastery. He undertook what is known as the Christ-initiation, which means that having gained self-mastery and equilibrium he became a perfect vessel for the manifestation of the Christ light and life. Remember, dear ones, that he said, 'What I do, ye can do also.' Few people try daily to practise the presence of Christ. Yet the joys of this heavenly life must be brought forth. They cannot come unless you set up a vibration in your own heart by a true longing to reach that state. Then you receive help because you are attracting to your soul, to your life, the rays of the Golden One. You can only receive these rays by true aspiration and not by lip-service—by going deep within and being honest with yourself. Seek and ye shall find. Being honest and searching will bring the light of truth. When you see this light of truth, when you know it, your outer life changes, not all at once, but you have started a process of re-creation. You have started on the upward arc. When you have seen truth within yourself, when you can free yourself of all falsity and see yourself naked, the light dawns. As light comes, the life changes. You cannot live an untruth.

Here then is the central point—truth. And truth is love. Some people think that too much attention is paid to love, to the heart centre. We tell you that those who choose the path of love and wisdom reach the goal by laying aside all outer dregs and falsities, going to the very centre, by being true, by finding that one true light, the flame which is eternal. Then you are set upon the path of action, the path of service, for no soul can see truth and become truth without acting, without living that truth. Cannot you now see how the whole world can be redeemed, can be changed by the coming into the consciousness of man of the Christ light and love?

At this stage you will perhaps begin to understand why Jesus did not sidetrack from his main teaching by talking about life after death, knowing that if his disciples put into operation the law which he had revealed, there was no need to speak of life after death because there was no death. Death would be overcome. He knew, and he demonstrated what would happen in two ways, firstly by the transfiguration. For then he took his disciples up into the hills—in other words he raised their consciousness—and asked them to watch with him. And by his help and their love and devotion to him and his doctrine, they saw the true life manifesting. Not only were they able to see the light of love blazing through his flesh, but in that light they saw the forms of others—of spiritual beings. They saw Jesus irradiated by the glory of the Christ, the golden light.

To help you to realise more definitely what we are endeavouring to explain, think, meditate if you like, upon the Sun. Imagine that you are looking into heaven through a golden gate. This opens and you see beyond a company of shining forms. Imagine that blazing golden Sun. This immediately raises you up from the greyness of earth to the glory of the heavens. And yet that picture which you are creating or imagining is the result of your own earnest search for truth. It is part of you, you are part of heaven, you are part of God. The whole universe is

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the result of the impulse of love. God the supreme Mind, the divine Mind, is all Love. The main lifestream is Love. Seek and ye shall find love. You will be able to penetrate the states of life which are all love, and love is beauty; love is truth; love is wisdom; love is power.

This, in simple language, is the truth of life as Jesus saw it. He acquired that vision of truth, not by running about in the world, nor yet by reading books. He went apart to pray to his Father. He withdrew from the outer life. As he said, 'Your Father which seeth you in secret shall reward you openly,' which means that as a soul seeks truth by silent prayer it receives a great power, not that which urges domination over any other soul but power to live graciously, beautifully, a power to transmute the earthly atoms to a higher form.

Then the Master Jesus provided a final demonstration in the resurrection of the body. This is a truth about which your modern age is confused. People try with their little earthly minds to solve the problem. We have heard people say how can the atoms of the body ever again be brought together if a body has been cremated? How can the body be raised up if it has been cremated? How can the body be raised up if it has been destroyed? Well, Jesus referred to the temple and said, 'If this is cast down, in three days I will build it up.' You think only with the intellect, and the intellect will carry you only so far and no further. Your questions remain unanswered. The higher intellect, however, the higher mind united with the mind in the heart, mystically married, will be enabled to comprehend this divine truth. The body can and will be raised in glory.

We need to be specific about this. Do we mean the physical body or its counterpart? What do you think? Was it the physical body of Jesus that was raised and ascended into heaven or was it the soul body? That body had all the appearance of a solid physical body, with the nail marks in the hands and feet, and the spear mark in the side. To all intents and purposes it was the same body. If it were not, what happened to the physical body? That question has never been answered. Many stories are abroad—that the body of Jesus was sold, disposed of by his enemies, by those who were frightened of what people would say. No. God is the sole life. The spirit of God, the Son of God, the Christ was in full possession of all those physical atoms, and so purified the physical atoms that the physical body, or what appeared to be the physical body, was lightened, became lighter as all physical bodies do when the light of Christ dwells in them. They become light, all light. You do not know what light is, do you? Your scientists have theories of light but they do not really know what light is. Light is life, that is all. Life is God. The body of Jesus was a body of light; the physical atoms were transformed into light and disappeared from mortal vision. Yet it was still the same body. Until man's heart is cleansed by the Christ light his vision must remain closed, and the earthly mind will never penetrate these mysteries. Only true love operating from within will enable man to know truth, to comprehend life and death and what you call the hereafter.

Q. Some eastern religions teach as their main theme the eradication of desire of any kind on the part of the worshipper, or the attainment of desirelessness so that the soul can reach *Nirvana*. And since it makes no more karma because it has attained desirelessness, it thereby escapes the ceaseless round of birth and death or

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reincarnation. This may suit some people, but others would perhaps wish to come back, to help or to serve. What are your views?

- A. We will briefly answer part of the question, and later deal with the whole subject at another Inner Teaching. In different religions you get a different presentation of truth which is the particular kind of teaching acceptable by man at that particular age. Perhaps nowadays you see a truth given in some previous age from a higher aspect. You comprehend a little better then the meaning of that past religion. Truth is like a jewel with many facets. There are many paths to God. Someday when all the varying religionists arrive at their goal they will be amazed to find all their friends there also. The main lesson is to live and let live. Do not interfere with other people for they have their particular path to God. Say, 'God bless you. My love is with you as you journey.' The sage will never try to force a man against his will. The sage just smiles and keeps very still. Having seen truth, he sees that his brother will also find truth—someday.

Benediction:

O dear children, we so long to give you that love which is beyond all worldly understanding. As one son-daughter of the living God we worship, we praise, we give thanks to the absolute perfect Life for our life, for our consciousness and for the joy which it brings through Thy Son, the Perfect One. Thus we now receive Thy blessing, Thy blessing. We thank Thee.

Amen.