

Judas Iscariot

A023 Sunday Address 4th October 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service

The text of this address is as prepared for machine-duplicated circulation shortly after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: duplicated script with the title, 'Judas Iscariot' and the date. No superficial markings.

Context: no details given of the service itself. The last paragraphs are an informal benediction.

General notes: the story of the betrayal of Jesus is general to the gospels but White Eagle initially makes particular reference to the story in Matthew, where Jesus and Judas dip their bread into the same dish. This particular passage was not mentioned when White Eagle's account of Judas in the gospel of John was reproduced in the book *The Living Word of St John*. There is a contemporary reference, perhaps, at the end of the address, 'What is happening on earth today?' – but most likely White Eagle meant particularly. Nonetheless, October 1936 (and this day in particular) was marked by marches by Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists in London. No greater contrast could exist than in how White Eagle manages to end on the note: 'we look back upon the story of Judas Iscariot with infinite love and thankfulness'.

References: 'My kingdom is not of this world' is from John 18 : 36; 'let this cup be taken from me' is from Matthew 26 ; 39-42. For the whole story, see John chapter 13, from verse 18, and the account in the synoptic gospels.

White Eagle's Address:

We consider tonight the story of the betrayal of the Master by his disciple, one of the most impressive and dramatic stories in the New Testament. Those of you who have found enlightenment in the way of the disciple will feel deeply the full significance of this teaching. As with all the teachings of the Master, however, there is an exoteric aspect, the outer, suitable to those children of God who can only digest the milk of life; and there is an esoteric aspect, hidden from the children, revealed to the wise, revealed to those who are quickened in their soul by the incoming awareness of God, or the illumination of the Christ man within.

Let us take the outer aspect as related in the four Gospels.

Judas was as the other eleven disciples, and had a great love for his master; but you will notice all through his history indications of a little dark spot within – the point of entry, as it were, for the darker forces of life. He showed a love for worldly power, for the material things of life, and more than once it is recorded that he urged Jesus to take his place as the King of the Jews, in conformity with the natural expectation that one such as Jesus of Nazareth would be sent to deliver them from their enemies, the Romans. When thus urged, Jesus, with his infinite love, answered again and again: "My kingdom is not of this world."

Let us particularly make a note of this. Judas Iscariot, because of the weaker side of his nature, because of the mental and physical aspect of him, clamoured for the material. Jesus always contrasted the kingdom of earth with the kingdom of heaven.

Because of this, some regard Judas Iscariot as an enemy of Christ.

Nay, not so. You will notice that the thirteenth chapter of Matthew draws a picture of that Last Supper, with Judas Iscariot and the Master dipping the bread into the same dish. To

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those able to see perhaps deeper into the story, we see that Jesus of Nazareth and Judas Iscariot *by design* ate the bread dipped into the same dish of wine. Into this we read a deep significance, for it would seem that Judas the Betrayer and Jesus the Son, the channel of the Light, were made as one, as they dipped into the same dish. Coupled with this, Jesus said that the Scriptures must be fulfilled, so it would seem that the whole plan of the betrayal was foreseen in the Halls of Wisdom, and the actual happening on the earth plane was the bringing through into physical manifestation of a divine or spiritual plan for the ultimate enlightenment of humanity. A very human story with a deep esoteric meaning.

If the whole plan of the betrayal of Jesus had been arranged, foreseen, for centuries, what does this mean? This – that life on the physical plane is the result of certain laws, of one primary law, in this instance the law of Cause and Effect. The plan for the betrayal of the Master was set.

Some will not like to accept this, but Jesus Himself knew that it had to be. Did He not cry in His anguish to God: “If it be Thy Will, let this cup be taken from me. But Thy Will, not mine, be done!”

So it would seem that Jesus the Master accepted the way of the Father, knowing that, underlying the suffering of his bodily self, there was a tremendous cosmic revelation to be made to humanity. Thus was the cup taken by the beloved, and drunk to the dregs. “Not my will, O Father, but Thine, be done.”

How many, how many can say this with courage and sincerity? And what followed the betrayal? They took Him and crucified Him. But they did not, could not, kill the Master. The whole point of the story lies in the fact that man, earthly man, crucified the body of the Master, but the spirit of Christ, the Light, He who is the Life Spirit of the world, they could not kill; for He is the eternal life, He is the Life Spirit of humanity, of the world, the Christ.

Do not confuse the Christ Spirit which is the Light itself, with the Master Jesus, the channel. Christ was unable to be crucified and destroyed. He was and is the Eternal Light!

Turn to Judas Iscariot, the disciple, the man. The story goes that Judas, having fulfilled his purpose – poor Judas! – went out and hanged himself. His very act was in itself self-destructive.

On the one hand is the eternal life of Christ; on the other the self-destroying self, the consuming by the fire of that which is unwanted, of that which is called Evil. And so we have these two symbolic presentations, that of the Christ, the Eternal Light, being betrayed by Judas ... and of Judas, the man of earth, trying to find relief by destroying his own body.

Poor Judas, poor Judas! He fulfilled his mission. Remember the dual aspects of Judas - that which was of the earth, earthy, and that which was of Christ – heavenly.

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Some say – I do not make a definite statement - some say that Judas is now a Master, fulfilling his service to humanity. I leave you to choose your acceptance or otherwise of that.

Beloved ones, let us consider that the two aspects may dwell in the life of man. For every man holds in his heart the Christ, and in every man dwells Judas.

Do not be shocked. Have you ever been betrayed by one you loved and trusted, by a friend? Very few escape the heartache and suffering which results from betrayal. Have you ever betrayed ... a friend? You will exclaim: "Oh, no, no, not willingly, not knowingly no, I would not!"

Come; think... Does not man in his daily life betray Christ? Yes, and many an excuse is put forward, one of the most frequent being: "We have got to be businesslike. We have to follow the dictates of reason."

Yes, God has given us reason, are we not to use it?

Yes, but reason may be the voice of the man of earth betraying the Christ within, the worldly-wise man who rises and says: "We must be practical. It is all very well, but sentiment does not mix with business."

If what you mean by business is being efficient in everyday life – efficiency comes through the God, or the good, within, the Godlike striving to express itself in perfect action -God finding expression in goodness, in honest fair dealing, in kindness. Is it then possible to mix religion with business? Oh yes, quite. In fact, it is the way to eternal life.

So we find the two wheels ever revolving, one against the other, in physical life. That which is called Evil, or self, is that which strives for individualisation, self-expression, and it has a place in the scheme of evolution. On the other hand is that eternal wheel of Good, the eternal wheel of Christ, the life and the light of the world. And the two, one turning ever against the other, produces ultimate perfection.

Once we see this story clearly, we may recognise true values of which most people have no sense at all, so they run to extremes. The mind, the reason, or the intellect which we call the man of earth – indeed, we might almost call it 'Judas Iscariot' – always, if it has its way, will betray the Son, the Christ.

But once recognise the Light within which guides the footsteps on the path of true kindness, humility of spirit and a wide unfolding love towards all, once let this light pass through the channel of intellect or reason – then we shall get Divine Intelligence, the Perfect Man.

What is happening on earth today? Oh! Some are distressed at the suffering and bloodshed and the hatred of humanity. It is the old, old story, the betrayal, the Judas betraying Christ.

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How can we help in this struggle of man to gain true poise and balance? We must daily live peacefully, becoming increasingly aware of the good in all life. The great purpose in incarnation is growth of the spirit, is that growth towards perfect manhood and Christ-hood. Never take sides – experience will teach you that what we say is wise. The wise man does not side in any quarrel between people, but sees the whole story, and awaits the ultimate blending of the two in perfect harmony.

So we look back upon the story of Judas Iscariot with infinite love and thankfulness, recognising that it portrays the story of our own life, that it symbolises the life of man from the beginning.

So we see a plan and a purpose in the betrayal of Christ by Judas. We see that the betrayal revealed to men ...LIGHT.

We thank God for His glory, we thank God for suffering; we thank God for life and for the Valley of Shadows; for we know that all leads to heaven, to ultimate perfection and glory, to a Kingdom not of this earth, but of God.

So may deep peace be with you all. May you go forth on life's way with a greater courage, with an ever-growing awareness of the beauty of God's love.

Peace be in your hearts ... all moves forward to the Light.

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:

karma, forgiveness, resurrection, acceptance, inner peace, purpose of life