

*Ninth Week*

*First Day*

## **The Way of Love**

Do not keep for yourself the persons who come to you with their love. Unbind them, let them go, teach them to recognize only the mastery of God and to yield only to his desires and leadings. You have the power to give away those persons who give themselves to you—who have given you their love. So dare to love and to be loved, but dare to relinquish, too!

For if we try to keep for our own private, personal aggrandizement—no matter how subtly—the love of others, then jealousy, tyranny and all manner of suffering will result. But if we allow others to love us, as channels through which their love may flow straight back to the Heart of the Father, we cannot ever lose or hurt them.

One who loves in the way I am describing, who does not want to possess his friends or loved ones for any selfish purposes, finds that he possesses them after all—for larger purposes. And they who are possessed by a love as limitless and powerful as that which I am describing are set free, for such love removes all limitations to their growth and enables them to meet any need. It is the Holy Spirit manifesting through clear souls.

And here is a great eternal Truth: EVERYONE DEEP DOWN IN HIS SOUL LONGS TO BE POSSESSED BY A TOWERING, COLOSSAL, UNSELFISH, UNSELF-SEEKING LOVE. That is the aim and purpose of his entire life's journey. To find such love is to find the very Kingdom itself here and now. For then we abide in the Father in whom only is Love Complete.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni: which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: But go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. (John 20:16-17)

*Ninth Week*

*Second Day*

## **You Are a Branch on the Vine**

As we are branches and Christ is the Vine, the most important decision that we must make in life is the choice of position we will take in relation to the Vine. Shall we keep our consciousness, our awareness, where the branch connects with the Vine, or out at the tip far from the source of our supply, and live there exposed to every wind of emotion and desire?

When a man chooses to take his stand with the true “I” that is united with his God, miracles begin to occur around him. This is because he lives, moves and has his being in the creative, Godlike part of his nature, instead of the created, manifest, human side. People may acknowledge the miracles gratefully and celebrate, advertise or even exploit them. But often they will turn upon the man himself and condemn him as a fanatic leading orthodox flocks astray.

Father, may our lives be hid with Christ in Thee. May our thoughts, our will, our hopes, be Thine. In humility and sincerity we regret our efforts to defend Thee with condemnation toward any who are not yet comforted by thy blessing. May Christ's redemptive Love and his matchless Grace blot these transgressions on our part from the book of Thine remembrances, so we may start afresh each day as newborn children of our Father, heirs and co-heirs of Thy beloved Son, brothers and partners with mankind.

May the aching open wounds of our spirits be healed by the heavenly transfusions of Christ's blood, mercifully restoring the years that the locusts have eaten. May His love and His joy flow through us until we are healed by a perfect welding, as branches to the Vine. Then, Beloved Father, we thank Thee for the peace that passeth understanding of men, the peace when we are one with Thee. Make us Thy chosen and ordained apostles to draw others, through the sincerity of our words, the genuineness of our Love and the contagion of our Joy, into blessed oneness with Thee.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)

*Ninth Week*

*Third Day*

## **Blessed Are the Merciful**

Enter any church and you will find some spotless souls who are so rigidly righteous, so immune to temptation, that they find it very difficult to be merciful to those who are weak, neurotic, or easily led into temptation. You will also find some rather loose characters—men who have sinned frequently and yet are more popular than their stiff-necked and righteous brethren simply because, being sinners themselves, they can understand weakness in others. They do not judge or condemn; but their uncritical attitude is not particularly redemptive because they have not yet overcome their own temptations.

However, when a real righteous man can include within his own rigid code of morals a spirit of mercy and forgiveness toward weaker brethren, he becomes the finest and most redemptive personality in the church, for then he is truly pure in heart. The combination of righteousness and mercy provides the spiritual perception by which we SEE GOD, at least in the face of our fellow men.

If we ask God to make us righteous without asking Him to give us mercy, our righteousness will be a sterile virtue. If we are merciful to others who are downfallen but continue to indulge in sins ourselves, our mercy will be sterile. But if we hunger and thirst after righteousness for ourselves while we extend the hand of fellowship and compassion to the sinner, we can bring permanent redemption to others. To see what is Godlike in a sinner is to be truly PURE IN HEART.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. . . .He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:8-12)

*Ninth Week*

*Fourth Day*

## **I Will Repay, Saith the Lord**

In Hawaii, if a Kahoona puts a curse on one, the evil he forecasts will come to pass if the victim sends out thoughts of fear or hate toward the Kahoona. These create a bridge over which the curse of the other achieves its evil purpose all the easier. If, on the other hand, the victim sends forth love toward his enemy, the love creates a protective wall against which the evil curse breaks without avail, and if it is not withdrawn, it boomerangs back upon the sender.

Jesus was not a “sissy” or a “pussyfooter” when he said “forgive your enemies, do good to those who persecute you.” He was releasing the most powerful weapon, both for defense of the attacked and for discipline of the attacker. If the latter continues the attack, it boomerangs in the form of punishment; if he repents, it brings him conversion and salvation. When Stephen was martyred by Saul’s men, he said, “Lord, hold not this against them,” thus releasing powers that brought Saul to his knees as a slave of Christ.

So long as you harbor vengeful thoughts, you prevent your heavenly Father, who is watching all his sons and daughters very carefully, from taking the right steps at the right time to effect a permanent cure of the evil in question. But when you let Love take over, God takes over for God is Love.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. . . . Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:14, 19-21, R.S.V.)

*Ninth Week*

*Fifth Day*

## **Faith and the Mountain**

Where two or three come together and symphonize (“agree” comes from the word “sympthonize”), asking anything in His Name, their prayers will be answered, even to the extent of lifting a mountain and casting it into the sea. And remember that mountains of hate and fear are as gigantic and apparently immovable as rock and soil.

The physical and spiritual realms, in the past considered so far apart, are alike in all important respects. For instance, the smaller and more invisible a thing is, the more powerful it can be. And the more completely and harmoniously the invisible elements unite with each other, the greater the power released from their union. Compare the infinitesimal, uranium and atom with a gigantic rocky mountain; one does not ever appear to the naked eye while the other appears massively before us. Yet the energies within that atom could blast a mountain away!

The world of science *knows* about the power of invisible elements. Does the world of religion know it as well? Scientists have unwavering faith in the laws of physical forces, such as the law of gravity, the law of the tides, the law of electricity. Do religious folks have the same unwavering faith in the great laws of soul force, such as the law of sacrifice, the law of humility the law of love? In giving the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus spoke with that confident assurance which a scientist has today when he talks of the laws of science. Do we share Jesus' confidence in the laws of the spirit? Do we act upon those laws which he gave us? Do we know the power of Love and Joy—the divine blessings produced by Faith?

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)

*Ninth Week*

*Sixth Day*

## **There Is Healing in Laughter**

When God blessed us with the imagination to see harmonies and congruities and logical relationships in this life, He blessed us also with a sense of humor to see the inharmonies, incongruities and illogical relationships—and smile. Humor enables us to think without malice or fear; rather, it transforms malice or fear by giving us diversion, change, enjoyment, to enrich our store of human experience. Thus inharmony, and illogical relationships become assets for us instead of liabilities.

A teacher can eradicate a pupil's mistake more quickly and effectively with laughter of a gentle kind than by punishment. Doctors can cure trivial complaints with humor better than with drugs.

But by humor and laughter of course we do not mean the low coarse type of buffoonery. We mean exalted, heartfelt joy, laughter compounded of love and gratitude to God. This is divine laughter, which echoes throughout heaven and takes us tripping higher and higher up the mountainsides. The more evil we see and the more trouble which comes upon us, the more we can laugh with love and joy, until at last we come to that stage where evil and trouble cannot possibly overtake us. For, as the touch of Midas converted everything into gold, so can the touch of heavenly laughter convert shadows into golden bits of sunshine to brighten every path before us.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: Then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad . . . They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:2-3, 5-6)