

Service¹

Lesson 1

My brothers, I am writing this lesson for two reasons. First, in answer to many of your unspoken questions, and secondly, as a plea to which, it is my prayer, you will respond.

This lesson concerns itself with Discipleship, which is the path of service tread by those who are disciples of the Christ. There are many of these. Man becomes a disciple when he accepts the Christ, without reservation, and initiates a new activity: that of service.

This path of service is part of the path of initiation, which, you will remember, is the way of least resistance for the realization of the Spiritual Soul.

This path consists in a way of thinking which automatically results in a way of speaking and acting. The individual learns to identify himself as a Soul, rather than as the personality. He realizes or attempts to realize that the form is not the entity, but merely the vehicle of expression for the true entity. As he grasps this concept with his mind and allows it to grow, he begins to see a whole new world of meaning underlying that which he has always known or thought he knew.

Gradually the concept is absorbed, and finally the fact that he is a Soul sinks into the subconscious as reality. The moment this occurs the individual has passed the First Initiation. He has been born again in Christ Consciousness, the consciousness of the Spiritual Soul, the true Son of God.

Remember that at this stage he is an infant in the new state of being. He must grow into the full realization of who and what he is, and just what that means. Thus he approaches the Second Initiation, the next step on the new ladder.

Before he can take any step, however, he must put into right use that which he has. As he does this, he initiates an activity. He serves his fellow men and passes the First Initiation.

What do I mean by putting to right use all he has? Simply that he must apply that which he believes to his daily living. Then will he know it. There are very few people in the world today, who have not grasped some concept of

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Truth. All have entertained something of Truth; many on an intellectual basis only, and that, My brother, is not enough. Truth must be wrought out in experience; it must be proved to be of any use in the physical world in which man lives. It is of no use to him so long as it remains an intangible belief, which may or may not be Truth. It must be demonstrated so that others may see, and you yourselves may know.

This term “demonstrate” is one which has been used in metaphysics for a long time, but it has been grossly misinterpreted. When I say demonstrate, I do not mean the acquiring of health, wealth, and happiness. That is of the material world and can be done by anyone who becomes one-pointed enough to apply known laws which operate in the mental, emotional, and physical worlds.

My brothers, the mind is no more God, or the Soul, than is the physical body. The mind is a body of energy which has been created by God, and is put to use by the Soul as an instrument of contact with the world in which he lives. To worship intellect is no more truth than to worship a physical body.

When I say demonstrate Truth or the Soul, I mean put into right use that which you already have.

First. What do you think you believe? What are those intangible somethings which you swear you believe? Do you believe there is a God? That you are His Son? Do you believe in the teaching of Christ? Then, My brother, prove it. Put into right use those so-called beliefs and let us see a living example of them. Love your neighbor, forgive your enemy, and practice the Christianity which you profess. That, My brothers, is discipleship.

A disciple is not confined within or without the boundaries of any organization. He may be Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, etc. He is a disciple when he has accepted the Christ within all men and is striving to bring this realization to others via the method to which he feels called.

Many readers may be aghast when I speak of a disciple as being either of the Christian or Buddhist faith. My brothers, there is truth in all forms, and there is no form existent in the world today that is completely without distortion. Though the followers of different faiths use a different terminology with which to describe the Universal Deity, and though they may concentrate upon different aspects of the One, they are all talking about the same Deity, for there is none other to talk about.

When will man learn to accept his brother's God, without confining him within the limitations of our inadequate and confusing terminologies? When will he learn that the scientist is seeking the same Truth as he? The barriers which separate groups within the human family from other groups are man-

made barriers, consisting largely of terminology and down-right conceit. If two men view the color green and one calls it red and the other calls it purple, does that change the color itself? Are they speaking of the same object, or do their descriptions separate it into little pieces of red and purple? No, it still remains a certain color, wherever it is found and regardless of the terminologies used to describe it.

This is one of the most important concepts for the student to grasp, for it leads to tolerance and brotherhood. Brotherhood is the miracle medicine the human race needs today, for it will heal the ills of our civilization. It will sew up the wounds in our relationships, transmute fear into faith, bring harmony out of the conflicts which threaten to tear us to pieces, and lead us into understanding.

A disciple is one who is a brother to the Christ. He recognizes the Christ within each man, and accepts him as his brother, realizing that they are both endowed with the same heritage and have, therefore, the same rights. He endeavors to work with, not against his brother, and lets Love direct that work. His will is the will to good, his love the Love of God, and his activities become the living example of Truth, the fruits by which he is known.

My brothers, the human family needs you now. It needs your clear constructive thoughts, your healing Love, and your intelligent activity. It cries out for the words of Truth which will lead the way to its understanding, and above all it pleads for brotherhood. It is my prayer that you will answer that call, will fulfill that need in the midst of your daily life. It is a need which can be seen on every side of you, within the very heart of you, and it is so simple to fulfill. It does not demand that you step out of your present environment. No, it begs that you bring Love, Peace, and Harmony into your present environment, and manifest right relationship there, that of brotherhood.

Brotherhood is contagious, it can spread from man to man, from family to family, from city to city, nation to nation, and bring to bear upon us all the great healing power of its Love.

Listen to your heart, my brothers, and to the heart of all you contact. Can you not hear the call?