

MYSTIC LIGHT

To Serve with Joy

As they were going along the road a man said to him, I will follow you wherever you go and Jesus said to him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head. To another he said, Follow me. But he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my Father. But Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to take care of their own dead; as for you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Another said, I would follow you but let me first say farewell to those at my home. Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Luke 9:57-62



Tempera on wood, 1308-11. Duccio di Buoninsegna. Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena

The Washing of the Feet

IN THIS PASSAGE Christ Jesus explains to us that if we want to follow Him we cannot look back; also, we cannot go back to our old lifestyle and old habits. When we realize that God is at the center of our being, also at the center of the Universe, then we will allow our thoughts to become alive in our consciousness. Then the light and love and power of God will flow through our lives. When we allow God to be *absolute* in our personal life, then we will know that not only every cell in our own bodies, but also in any form of life, as well as in the whole universe, is a living vibrant part of God. Only when we can understand and accept this truth will we be able to see the spiritual dimension of our existence in consecutive lives on planet earth. When we know that we are here to grow spiritually and that the earth is in actual fact the school where we learn our lessons to do that, only then can we serve in joy. And when we can serve in joy, we glorify God in our service.

To be able to glorify God with our service to humanity, we must be able to have love in our

hearts for our neighbors and to be humble in our service. The greatest crime in the universe against the law of love is humanity's almost ceaseless sending forth of every kind of destructive feeling. We read in the Bible, John 13, verse 5: "Then Jesus poured water in a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, and he wiped them with the towel with which he was girded."

Now we know that people in those days traveled long distances by foot and it was their custom to wash their feet as soon as they arrived at their destination. We do not observe that custom any more in the modern world, but just imagine we were still living in those days and traveled by foot. How many of us would have been prepared to wash one another's feet? In washing the feet of His disciples Jesus is teaching us to serve one another, and to be humble in doing it. In John Chapter 13 we also read that after washing their feet Christ Jesus asked them this question: "Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have

washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Christ Jesus here shows us by His works to serve with love, for service without love brings no joy. We also read in John Chapter 13 verse 34, where Christ says, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my Disciples, if ye have love one to another."

When we look at the life of our Savior we see that it was not an idle one. He did not use His powers for Himself. He also did not hide Himself away from the world. No, He went out amongst people. He ministered to their daily needs. He fed them when necessary. He healed them and taught them. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, became the Servant of humanity. Christ Jesus set the example for us by His works.

To me Max Heindel was a real follower of Christ. He shared with us the knowledge he received from the Elder Brother. He worked long hours to do that, even though at times he was not well and must have been very tired. But he had one goal—to serve and and bring the light of the spirit to humanity He did not stop there. He left Rosicrucian students and Mt. Ecclesia resident this beautiful place to live in and to work on, thereby giving us wonderful opportunities to serve. He never asked anything for himself. He did not expect special treatment. He originated the phrase "loving, self-forgetting service." He also embodied the meaning of those words in his life and gave us an example to follow. Heindel also taught us to do good to others, no matter what they do to you. Because he knew that you can only receive by giving. I believe that we do ourselves immense good when these words are written in our hearts: "Loving self-forgetting service to others is the shortest, the safest, and the most joyful road to God."

If we share the knowledge we have received from Max Heindel with other people, we help them to take responsibility for their own actions. We help them to know the truth. This is a wonderful way to serve others.

I remember with how much joy and eagerness I

shared the knowledge I received through the teachings with my children, and how overwhelming was my joy when I saw them applying the teachings in their own lives and sharing it with their friends. In this way we serve each other.

About two years before my only son passed over, he came to me and asked me to share with him everything I had learned through the teachings. Each day after work he would stop at my place and I would share what I knew with him. In time he became a regular student. So many times he told me how he shared his knowledge with the people he worked with. Frequently they would come to him for advice concerning their daily affairs.

He once told me that after he started with the studies he made a summary of his entire life. He wrote down all the memories that came to him. Where he had done wrong, perhaps hurt someone, he went to them and asked for forgiveness. I was so happy that his whole outlook on life had changed. Little did I know that he was in actual fact preparing himself to go over to the spiritual world. He even told me shortly before he went over, so unexpectedly, that he would not mind passing over, for now he knows the truth.

I can only thank God for allowing me to share my knowledge with my child, so that he was able to use it in his own life. I believe that the knowledge he gained was used as a wonderful tool to prepare him for his passing over to the spiritual world.

Many times in our daily lives we are confronted with problems, trials, and sorrows. We hear of wars, violence, and terrors. In the midst all of this turmoil and ill-will we must remember to live according to the example set for us by Christ. We must serve humanity with joy if we want to experience the Christ Love in our hearts. We want that love to flow through us so that we can experience Christ in the center of our being.

I remember the time when my children were still small—and I has six of them—I sometimes asked this question, Dear Lord why are my responsibilities so great, and the means I have to meet them so little? But day by day I lived in faith, and God always provided me with the opportunities to enable me to take care of my children. Of course I love

them, and I served them in joy, and my children grew up to be most loving and caring adults. Now I again enjoy their love and their support, only now they take care of me as though I were their child. To our children we give without ever expecting anything back, and this is the purest form of service. This shows to me the loving way of our Heavenly Father. In love He teaches us to serve our children in love, and so we learn from each other. For today's child will become tomorrow's parent. And so the circle of love continues.

But there are people who in this life were, for some reason, not given the opportunity to serve and love children of their own. I am sure that in a past life they have already experienced this wonderful way of giving and serving, and perhaps in this life a child of some family member will be given to them to serve. Or perhaps they already serve God's children, young and old, with a universal love.

There are so many wonderful ways in which we can and do serve each other. Think of the ingenious people who who invented so many wonderful devices like the telephone, television, and computer. The writer, the painter, the person who sings beautifully: their creations enrich our lives and lift us. There are those who care for the sick and homeless. There are caretakers for stray or maimed animals. There are those who take care of the earth.

We serve and love each other in countless ways. It is God who provides us with these opportunities for soul growth, but we must meet them and carry through with our actions. The eyes of the Universe are for ever upon us. How we handle our responsibilities and make use of opportunities given us become part of our permanent record written in the book of Nature. If, when a stranger comes to our doorstep, when we invite this person into our home, feed him, cloth him, and give him shelter, we serve this person, but we also glorify our Heavenly Father with this service.

When, in our daily work, we perform to the best of our abilities and with joy, if we do not shy away



Oil on canvas (detail), Carl Bloch (1834-1890). Chapel, Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark

Let the Little Children Come to Me

“If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.” So do little children teach us, serve us, even as we serve them.

from or neglect what is given to us, we shall receive greater responsibilities and be allowed to serve in ways that give greater glory to God and humanity. But if we do not do our best with what is given to us at present, we cannot expect to receive more important and richer opportunities in this life or future lives.

There are a number of ways we may carry out the second Commandment of Christ—to heal the sick. If we participate in healing services with all our heart we are in actual fact rendering a self-forgetting service, and our prayers and thoughts are used by the Elder Brothers in their work for humanity.

Here at Mount Ecclesia we are given a wonderful opportunity to serve humanity, we can reach out to the whole world, even on a personal level, but we must love and serve each other before we will be able to do that successfully, because we are taught by Christ that a house that is divided in itself cannot stand. If we are not able to move together in unity and love, we will not be able to give out Teachings in a healing way.

In the *Cosmo-Conception* (page 106) we see that

whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap. It is the law of Cause and Effect in operation. We are ever to receive what we have given out. Whether it is good or not is for each of us to decide.

Service given or withheld has an effect on us even after we passed over to the Spiritual world. On page 14 of the *Cosmo-Conception* we read that in the First Heaven the panorama of the past live again unrolls itself backwards, but this time it is the good acts of the life that are the basis of feeling. When we come to scenes where we have helped others, we realize anew the joy of helping and serving in that way. We experienced it at that time. Now, additionally, we feel the gratitude poured out to us by the person we helped. Our happiness in Heaven depends upon the joy we give to others and the value we placed upon what others did for us. We must always realize that our responsibilities and duties are stepping stones for soul growth. If we do that well, we will grow, and we will receive the benefit for our well-doing, but if we always push our responsibilities and duties onto someone else, that person will gain, and we will lose.

If we just take from others, never sharing our love or even ourselves, we are selfish. If we go through life hurting people, putting ourselves first, the Law of Cause and Effect will bring to us just that what we have earned, both in the spiritual world when we pass over and in our future lives on earth.

Because Christ Jesus loves us without qualification or limit, He sets for us the high example of how we can serve each other, because it is His will that we shall be happy on earth and in the Spiritual World as well.

If we do everything in love, that love will protect us, even in our sorrow, for there will be times when we will have to make decisions for what is right that cause opposition. We will not and cannot always agree with everyone, but if we disagree in love, we can learn from each other, by sharing our thoughts and feelings, our common humanity. So do we learn and grow in Christ.

Love is the only emotion that reaches far beyond the boundaries of death high into the Spiritual world. For, as John says, God is love. All other emotions are limited to the earthly and lower desire world planes. Only love can keep us con-

As a Man Soweth

We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears,
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or of flowers

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

nected with our loved ones on the other side. Love joins and keeps people close to each other, on the earth and also in Heaven. If we are able to see this clearly, we will be able to understand why Jesus taught us to love each other, why he set that example in washing the feet of the disciples, so that we also might serve one another in joy and humility. In so doing we receive manifold returns.

Daily we are given opportunities to serve, and in most cases we do what is put before us, without realizing the tremendous effect it has on our souls. When we really want to do something we do it with zeal, joyfully.

From the feeling of love and compassion in our heart is born this wonderful sense of unity, of interconnectedness, of oneness between ourselves and the entire universe. Such is the love of God. From compassion and love is born again the appreciation of difference, the glorious difference between human beings, who are yet one in God's love, and in our's.

I would love to close with this beautiful thought: I honor myself as a master being of service, love, and light. I know that I am on this earth plane in order to become my Higher Light. By this acknowledgement I understand that I create abundance in all aspects of my life. I am creating abundance of joy with my service to humanity, compassion, good health, and above all, light. For I am abundance. I am love. I am light.

May the love of our Lord Christ Jesus guide us, so that we understand clearly that it is only by giving that we can receive. □

—Martie C. Purchase