

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Crowning Works of the Ministry

The Rite of Transfiguration (Cont.)

THE first three Gospels portray the important preparatory steps in the life of the neophyte which precede the Transfiguration. John begins his Gospel with the Transfiguration, outlining the life of the aspirant after this transmutation has occurred. According to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Christ prepared His Disciples for His departure between the time of the Transfiguration and the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. He endeavors to have them understand the manner of His going and the esoteric reason therefor.

And Jesus going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death.

And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him; and the third day he shall rise again. — *Matthew 20:17-19.*

Christ's final instructions deal with the problems of spiritual discipline by which His followers may attain as He has attained. In these essentials He stresses humility and forgiveness as the most important.

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea.

Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend

thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.—*Matthew 18:3-9.*

Following these precepts we find Paul saying: "I am determined to know only Christ Jesus and him crucified."

Mystic Church legends state that the Blessed Lady was also in attendance upon the glories of the Transfiguration . . . Thus she would gain a more complete concept of the cosmic meaning of the Christ Ascension and its effect upon human evolution in future generations.

The Keynote of the New Christian Dispensation

The Christ, in these final instructions to His own immediate Disciples, repeatedly emphasized the fact that forgiveness, love, faith, and humility are the prime essentials of true discipleship.

And thou shalt love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.—*Mark 12:30-31.* (See also *Mark 11:22-26.*)

The aspirant will be able to discover in these words of the Master why oftentimes it seems so difficult to receive an answer to prayer. The fundamental condition necessary for this reception is that attitude of mind which bears love toward all and malice toward none. "As ye pray, forgive, if ye have aught against any." Through the very power of universal love the Spirit touches and communes with that Christ Life wherein all are one and from which all things manifest.

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