

January 2 and 9, 2016
1953 Second Seattle Class given by Joel S. Goldsmith
Tape 35, Side 1: "Fishers of Men"

Summary

This class work on the new dimension, Christ, is based on the revelation of a Presence and Power that cannot be defined by human thought, and which does not come into human experience except for those who have caught the vision of a spiritual universe. Ordinary human thinkers do not penetrate the realm of the Spirit. They remain in a three-dimensional world that can be seen, heard, tasted, touched, smelled, and thought about. In that realm, there is might, power, strength, wisdom, and cunning. There are all forms of human powers aiding us or harming us. The human world is sometimes good and sometimes bad, according to the reasoning mind and how one reacts to what they behold with their five physical senses.

The few who penetrate the three-dimensional world and see into the spiritual realm discern that there is another Power, another Presence. To human understanding, It is not power or presence because it does not have outlined form and does not overcome other powers. Yet the spiritually illumined feel, sense, and are aware of It. It is a power because Its very presence reveals harmony even where discord, disease, or sin seemed to have been. The mystics of all ages – those who have attained some measure of conscious oneness with God – have discerned this invisible Presence and Power. They have availed themselves of It and have risen to lives of great peace, harmony, and joy. Even though many suffered persecution from the outside world, this never disturbed their inner being. They understood that this Power would destroy those and the activity of those who might permit Its entrance into their consciousness, but were not ready to see the advantage of giving up their personal sense of life for the spiritual life. It is difficult for the materialist to imagine being happy or wealthy by giving because their training is that happiness and wealth are achieved by getting.

This three-dimensional, human, material world is really only **a false concept of the Real**, so the material world is never destroyed in and of itself. **It is seen through.** It is understood for what it is, and that understanding dissolves it. In other words, there is no such thing as an objectified, physical, mortal, material universe. The only universe that exists is the spiritual, real world of God's creating. When this inner vision is awakened, the world of God's creating becomes the only real world, and the mortal concept of that world becomes unreal and disappears.

Throughout recorded history there have been many secret religious orders, formed for different purposes. They all require an initiation in which the initiate goes through trials and tests. While the forms differ, the tests are alike in that the initiate must go through harrowing experiences, some of which may involve beholding pictures of loved ones coming under forms of evil. The temptation is to leave and go to protect their loved ones. Some initiates do leave, and that ends their spiritual progress. Others manage to get past the first trials, but later drop by the wayside. Those who survive come to one ultimate test – facing death. They perceive that they are brought to the brink of a cliff and told to jump off. The cliff is so high that there is no hope for survival. If they disobey, there is no hope of being admitted to the brotherhood, but death also might mean no hope. Yet there are brothers in the order, so they must have survived.

Those who jump automatically become members because long before they reach the rocks below, they awaken and find that the whole thing was an illusion. They had been hypnotized into witnessing these pictures. None of it was real. Those who went home earlier found to their dismay that none of the things they beheld had ever happened, and they had lost their chance

for spiritual progress. Those who survived the final test were admitted to the brotherhood, but something greater happened than being admitted to the brotherhood. **They learned the entire secret of human experience: It is a state of illusion!** The conditions they were tempted to believe in do not exist anywhere in the realm of the Real. Right now, we are the initiates taking the degrees of brotherhood. We are being tried with experiences of lack, limitation, sin, disease, and for some, death. You may not realize that we are in an initiation, but we are.

Everyone who practices spiritual healing knows that they have never healed a disease or set a bone. They have simply pierced the illusion and seen the world of God's creating, the man of God's creating, and the laws of God's creating. As long as we are dealing with life from the standpoint of appearances, the only choice is to have a good illusion or a bad illusion, for the human mind cannot pierce the veil any more than the hypnotized initiate can. The faculty that enables one to pierce the veil and to see through the illusion is called Christ, Soul faculties, or spiritual Consciousness. Spiritual Consciousness means consciousness of the Spirit and the things of the Spirit. Material sense can never have that consciousness. Some individuals come into this plane of existence with a sufficient measure of that illumined consciousness to behold some degree of Reality, but most of us have only a mortal, material sense of things. We find it difficult to believe that there is a universe of harmony right here and now, and that we may enter it, not by choice, but because **there is no other universe**. All that is necessary to behold this universe of harmony is a tiny measure of that Christ Consciousness, that spiritual awareness.

How can we pierce that veil? The answer is that you already have the first seed of that illumination. That seed is what started you on the spiritual path. If you did not have that seed, you could not have come to any spiritual teaching because it would have bored you to death, angered you, and seemed nonsensical. The things of God are foolishness with man, and the mere fact that this isn't foolishness to you indicates that you have already risen above the level of mortal man. You have no choice but to continue on the path, and you need not have any doubts or fears about the ultimate result. The fact that you have been placed on the path is enough. Your efforts, or the fears or doubts you may temporarily entertain about your ability to attain, may prevent the attainment for a while. But as you relax and understand that you are not here by your own will, but because the seed that was planted in you is sprouting, you can step aside and let that seed take its normal course. Then you will awaken more quickly into your membership in the brotherhood. It is inevitable. You can't miss.

The awakening is an act of grace, an act of God for which you have no personal responsibility. The government is upon his shoulders. If you look at this world **from the standpoint of appearances**, it seems you have to struggle and strive in order to achieve spirituality. But when you no longer look out at a world of illusion and try to improve it, but sit quietly in the realization that God is the Creator, Maintainer, and Sustainer of this universe, you recognize that we have entered a state of illusion and that only God can destroy it. So where is your personal responsibility? You haven't any! Just be normal and natural. Yes, you have an obligation to keep in thought the idea that you must not judge by looking at the world from the standpoint of appearances. But even violating that will not keep you out of heaven. So for now, be willing to see the seed planted and growing. Stop looking at sick and sinful man and wondering how to make him well. Stop looking at the pictures of sense and wondering how you can improve them. You aren't going to improve those pictures, but **illumination will dissolve them**.

Earlier we said that the revelation of the world of spiritual perfection and purity is not only inevitable, but is not even far off. Progress towards it is so rapid that I don't think I could be surprised if I woke up tomorrow and found the world at peace and in the arms of God. Why would I not be surprised? The first copy of the Bible was printed just four or five hundred years

ago. Hundreds of years later, there still were not many copies available for the lay person. So it is only in the last two or three hundred years that people have had access to the Scripture, which reveals the power of love and grace, and the presence of God in individual affairs. It is only in the last hundred and fifty years that the great art, music and sculpture of the world has been available to the ordinary man. And it is only in the last seventy-five years that the world has had the revelation of the nature of human experience. Until then, the world was battling evil as if it were a reality and not making much headway.

In the last seventy-five years, the world has become less afraid of hell and damnation, less afraid of God, and less afraid of disease. In other words, human consciousness is being illumined rapidly with the understanding of the grace of God and the understanding of a divine Presence and Power. Above all, human consciousness is being illumined with sources of love. You can see this in the relationships that have come into commercial affairs in the last thirty or forty years. There is a greater degree of love in the businesses of the country. There is a greater effort of nations to help other nations and a greater effort of people to help other people.

When human consciousness is receiving a sense of love, a sense of peace, a sense of realization of a Presence and Power, it is not far from spiritual realization. Looking at the world from the standpoint of appearances, or counting how many wars there are, or how many nations are in distress, it may not seem that human consciousness is moving toward spiritual realization. But if you look from my view, you will not so much see the outer struggles, but the illumination that is entering human consciousness. We can continue to be the light for the rest of the world in the degree that we do not become hypnotized by the world of appearances, but go behind that world with whatever understanding we have and see it from God's side.

This is the secret that Jesus knew – the secret of waking out of the illusions of sense: **Look out from God's side.** First be sure that you have caught a glimpse of God as the infinite power of good, the infinite substance and law of the universe. Then as you look at the world from God's side, you will find a God-governed, God-maintained, and God-sustained world. Whatever illusion there is, God will destroy it. As you realize this, personal responsibility drops away, and you see that you do not have to struggle for enlightenment. It comes to you as fast as you can accept and respond to it. So just continue on your path in the way that satisfies your integrity, doing all that may be expected of you and doing it to your highest sense of right. Beyond that, you have no responsibility. *"The government is upon his shoulders."*¹ Looking at this world from God's side, you behold the Sons of God. You see that man does not have to be saved, rescued, or healed. **Man needs to wake up**, and since one with God is a majority, one awakened in Christ can awaken millions. One Jesus, one Mary Baker Eddy, and one Mrs. Fillmore awakened millions. It only takes one who has the light and who sees as God sees.

The questions during this class have been based on seeing life from mortal experience and seeking solutions. **There is no solution to the human scene except waking up out of it.** There is no human solution; there is only a spiritual solution. There is no human solution to the unhappy relations between capital and labor during these last twenty years, but there is a spiritual solution. As we begin to see that "man whose breath is in his nostrils" is not a reality, a law, or an evil, but an illusion, and that behind that illusion stands the Christ, we soon find capital and labor in harmony. In the same way, if two people see each other as human beings, and if each believes that he derives his good from the other and that their interests are antagonistic, you have the makings of wars, discords, and troubles. Just multiply that one

¹ Isaiah 9:6

human relationship, and you will see what comprises the human world. There is no solution on the human plane because each one sees only his rights and privileges and the other's duties. But if one of them begins to see the spiritual nature of individual being, there will be a change in the relationship, even if the change is only on one side at first. The one who has caught the first glimpse of spiritual life will have fewer negative human qualities, and if that one lives in a consciousness of love and forgiveness, it is impossible for the other one not to respond or to be moved, leaving room for one who is in harmony or in the new dimension, Christ.

When one individual looks at life from the standpoint of God, the rest of the world responds. So begin to see this universe from the new dimension, the standpoint of Christ as individual being. Look through the appearance to the Reality, and the world will begin to come to you. Since we are of the household of God, we have had a glimpse of true Being and we know the meaning of "My Peace," so we are the ones who must see life from the standpoint of God and become the light that illumines human consciousness.

The biggest concern I hear is about our responsibility: "Will I do enough and measure up?" No, you won't – but neither will you fail. Success and failure do not rest on your effort. **We are but the instruments through which the Christ is finding entrance into human consciousness.** We are being used by divine Consciousness to spread Its light into "this world." The choice is not yours and the responsibility is not on your shoulder. We have no choice but to continue forward because we did not bring ourselves to this state of consciousness: "*You have not chosen me, I have chosen you.*"² Something in our consciousness prepared us to be the light of the world. We may be just a tiny light right now, but we are the light of the world. The Christ will continue to express Itself in us and through us, to maintain and sustain us, and to destroy the illusions of sense so that we can perceive the mesmeric nature of the world.

Everyone who has been in this class has been touched by the Christ, and no one here will be quite as hypnotized by appearances as before, or react as much to the bad or good pictures. We have experienced the presence and activity of the Christ. We might doubt our ability to progress, but we cannot doubt the ability of the Christ to perform Its function in us. Every grain of illumination will appear in the outer world as greater harmony in some form. While you might doubt your own capacity or motives, never doubt the activity and power of the Christ once It has touched you. But even your doubts will not interfere with the power of the Christ to destroy every illusion of sense. Nothing we do or leave undone can interfere with It coming to fruition.

Not only do we benefit by the activity of the Christ, but also by the light our neighbor has caught. The measure of light that we have glimpsed will pour forth into this universe in ever-growing measure, lighting our way and being a light to those still in darkness – not because of you and me, but because of the activity of the Christ. For hundreds of years, the activity of the Christ has been opening human consciousness, giving it ever more light until we have reached this glorious age where not only have we seen and felt the life which is God, but we have caught a glimpse of the greatest truth ever revealed: **The appearance world is not a world to be feared, hated, or destroyed, but to be understood and seen through in its nothingness.** Once the light has touched us, we can't be fooled by appearances. In the degree that this light penetrates consciousness, the illusory pictures of all evils disappear from the face of the earth because they never had existence as Reality. So when you are tempted to believe in an appearance, be alert. Quickly remember that you are not dealing with that appearance as it seems to be. You are dealing with an appearance that has no substance, power, or law. In the measure of your quick response to that remembrance, your freedom will come.

² John 15:16