January 9, 1927

THE I AM INSTRUCTING THE CONSCIOUSNESS

The Sermon on the Mount is undoubtedly one of the greatest rituals that was ever given to the human family. Its so great and so far above anything that has been comprehended in the past or conceived in the present that it is marvelous that it ever got into the Bible. There is no doubt that if this Sermon on the Mount were presented at any of our theological seminaries as a part of the Bible and had never been in the Bible before, it wouldn't be received. It would be considered a work of a metaphysical maniac at least.

It is strange that the compilers of the Bible put it in in the beginning. It is evident that there must have been a divine hand in the building of the Bible. Either that or the people then were very much more credulous than they are today. It is remarkable that Jesus could preach a sermon of this kind because it is in such direct contradiction to all the customs of the Israelites, the Hebrew people at that time. It was contrary to all their practices. They didn't love their enemies. They were taught to hate their enemies. Jesus comes right out boldly and says, "Love your enemies."
Do good to those that despitefully use you." Undoubtedly, the precepts that are here given in this remarkable sermon were doubted by christians they would be shocked. But they would be a good deal more shocked if they were put into practice. You listen to these sermons and read them over, these beatitudes but when you attempt to practice them you are up against it.

Now we have just had these propositions read over and everybody received them and read them and heard them. And you didn't feel any tremor go over you did you, when you read them? But supposing that I should say to you, "Now, are you loving your enemies? Are you doing good to those that spitefully use you? When any body smites you on one cheek, do you turn the other and do you give to everybody that asks of you? If they ask for your coat, do you give your coat also? And are you carrying out these things?" No. You don't carry out a single one of them. Not one. Yet I say, you read them over. We've read these things over like we read the fairy tales. We just accept them but we don't put them into practice. That brings us to the question of why are they put
in the Bible if we don't practice them? How do they ever get there? What is the object of their being there? Well we have to go into another realm of consciousness to answer this question. And that realm of consciousness is called the kingdom of the heavens or the super mind. Jesus was the fore runner of an entirely new civilization in which certain relations would prevail, and this Sermon on the Mount gives us an inkling of what those conditions will be.

Now we are told at the very beginning of this wonderful talk by Jesus that he went up onto a mountain to pray and he sat down upon a mountain. Now all of these represent something. What is it to go up onto a mountain in your mind. Why, you metaphysicians know that it is to get a high realization of absolute truth. As we say, to enter into the consciousness of God. And that means that you should separate yourself from material things. That you shall have a realization of the absolute mind of Being. Now the ordinary man would say "that is impossible, the mortal can't conceive of the divine." But Jesus taught otherwise. He laid these laws down as capable of execution. He said, "You're my followers, you're my
disciples. Now here are the propositions that you must live up to.

Well, did he mean that or was he talking as we say, "through his hat." I think he was telling the truth. But he wasn't telling the truth about the religions of the human family as they are today. What is the foundation of the present religion of human civilization? Why, it is based upon selfishness. What does selfishness come from? You say the carnal mind, the personal man. And where does war come from? From the carnal mind, personal man. Where does age come from? Why it has the same source. Well, who is this fellow that causes so much trouble in the world? Well, he is named variously but his personification is the adversary, the devil. He was a liar and the father of lies. He has always been a liar and always will be a liar. It has no reality at all. Well, what kind of a world are we living in? Why, we are living in hell. That is, the present civilization is hell. Now you don't have to go to hell to find this hell because its right here and the devil is here. Well, who is the devil? This personality, this carnal mind. And what did Jesus come to do? Why to do away with the
devil, to do away with the carnal mind. To raise us to a higher level that has a civilized people. And when is that going to be accomplished? That's another proposition. But as we begin to discern this inner kingdom and see possibilities we know, if it had been presented to me I would, as most people do, say, "Well that may be all right as a great high ideal of something that is coming way off in the future. It may be that it means when we get to heaven we can put it into practice but can it be brought into expression right here now? Why we think it can. But before this is accomplished, we must deal with this adversary, this devil in us, this Judas.

Now people say, "Why Jesus didn't have any Judas in him."

O, no. Paul says that he was tempted in all points like you are but without sin. He wasn't a sinner. Then he couldn't have had the human side to his nature. If Jesus didn't sin and he wasn't possessed of the devil at times, then he wasn't the great teacher, he claimed to be. But he did have the human side. Consequently
he had Judas. Judas was one of the powers of the man Jesus as
the other eleven disciples were his powers. He raised his con-
sciousness to a higher plane in human evolution than any man that
ever lived. He purified, that is, through his thought and words
purified all eleven of his faculties. But one he left because he
didn't go down into the depths of what we call the carnal mind.
He didn't cleanse it wholly. But he paved the way on the cross, that
carnal consciousness was wiped out of his mind. But it wasn't wiped
out of the whole human family. That's the greater work that we are to
do. And when shall we begin that work? Well, I think right away.
Right now. And the followers of Jesus Christ should get busy and
see if they can't put this Sermon on the Mount into every day
practice, into, well, the commercial world. Our business man's clubs
are trying to raise the standard of commercial relations. They are
raising them. Why these ideas of filtering out from Jesus' teach-
ings into the world have for years and years. The business men,
the great leaders of finance are finding that they must have a steady
relation. That the buyer and the seller must understand each other
better. And there must be more confidence, less trickery and better understanding, and that means more honesty. The carnal mind is not founded on honesty. The carnal mind is a tricky mind, its a deceitful mind, a dishonest mind. And as I say, these Christ principles are becoming part of the commercial world as well as the religious world.

I might say

John Wanamaker produced a revolution in dry goods trade when he announced that he would take back any article that wasn't satisfactory. Every merchant in the country said that man is going to fail but he didn't fail. Well now he proved that the relation can be established, that you must represent your goods for what they really are and if they don't meet with the approval of the buyer, you must take them back.

I read in the paper the other day that our automobile people were going to adopt that same rule in the sale of automobiles. If you are not suited with a car, if it isn't perfectly satisfactory bring it back and get your money. Now that shows that this law of justice and rightness and honesty is getting out into the world.
That we must, in order to make it universal, establish it in our own individual consciousness. That is, everyone of us must see the possibility and get the perception of it at first. Begin to get that perception into working order in our mind. Now if you have discerned the difference between what is called the carnal mind and the spiritual mind you've begun this great process of redemption. You're catching sight at least of what Jesus called the kingdom of the heavens. And we should begin right now, every one of us because sooner or later we must incorporate this kingdom of the heavens into our everyday life. We'll have war and we'll have contention, we'll have unhappiness of all kinds, sicknesses, and finally death so long as we allow this carnal mind to rule. Because that carnal mind is the source of death. Well people say, "How am I to discriminate between the spiritual mind and the carnal mind?" Well Jesus has given you in this Sermon, some of the fundamental principles of the spiritual mind. But you can apply a law. And that law is laid down in the Sermon on the Mount in detail. Jesus worked it out in an all round way. He gave you every angle of this wonderful
law of the spiritual consciousness or your higher spiritual consciousness. Now as I say, you can get down in the silence and raise your mind to that high place where you will see that you must love your neighbor, that you must be forgiving, that you must quit your condemnation, you must quit your fault finding, you must quit your nagging, you must quit seeing evil of every kind and description in other people and in yourself also. Now this to most of us is a perception. The ideas that enter into that haven’t become organic in our consciousness because we haven’t had faith enough in them.

But through faith you shall attain all things. Have faith in your ideals although they seem far away. Now there are standards by which we can judge whether we are thinking, whether we are functioning in the spiritual mind or in the carnal mind. Now some of the old Hindu masters laid down that law years and years ago, thousands of years ago and this is the law: The carnal mind detects differences. The spiritual mind recognizes similarities. Now you can apply that to your every day thinking. Every time that you see a difference, everytime that you see with a sharp so called intellect
you detect something to separate you from others, something that separates you from your very own, that's the carnal mind. But when you see similarities, when you begin to see that everything is unified in one good Principle and that Principle is everywhere present, consequently all people must be unified in order to get along harmoniously, there must be a universal Father, there must be a universal loving care, there must be a universal light, universal love, universal substance, universal intelligence. Now that is the foundation of spiritual mind, this recognition of similarities, a unifying Principle everywhere.

And then the elimination or the denial of these differences and Jesus said, condemn not, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." Now metaphysicians are discovering that every thought that they send out, comes back. As you judge, so are you judged. And that you can't judge another without having in yourself that same thing that you feel. Well this seems an awful hard law but it is true. And you must begin to apply it. And as you apply that law, as you stop your condemnation,
stop fault finding, stop nagging, stop seeing evil. Say, "Now that isn't true, that's the carnal mind in me that sees these things in others. I don't want to live in that mind. It leads to all kinds of inharmonies. It leads to separations. I want to live in love." Now this other mind, there is a mind in me and in this mountain mind, this mind of the Spirit, I want that mind. And that's the mind I'm going to live in. You've got to begin with redemption right where you are. But there is a mighty power in the example of Jesus Christ. He is our great way shower. He is the fore runner of a new kind of a man. And where do you find that man? Are you going to find him after you are dead? No. You find him when you are alive. He is a living expression of this one Infinite Mind.

Now love your enemies. Do good to them that hate you. These are hard propositions and I don't think that any of us in the carnal consciousness, in our human every day life really carry them out. Unless you are really illumined, unless you have this Christ spirit in your heart. You know I don't see how it could be possible. Of
course when anybody hits me on one cheek there is something flames up in me and before I know it, my fist *doubles* up.

Well, what will prevent that? Now there must be a remedy for that. There must be a remedy for that condition which we all find in ourselves. Well what is that remedy? Let's be honest with ourselves. Let's see if we can't find the great panacea that would stop this competitive feeling that permeates the whole human family and causes wars, causes discord, causes every feeling that comes into our lives. What is the remedy? Why it's the Christ, the super-mind.

Then I must exercise love and the love in me becomes a dominant, becomes a paramount issue of my feelings. I see people every day moaning over their lack of being placed where they think they belong. And I see people that have been placed in positions where they didn't measure up and they say, "Why is it that my own doesn't come to me? Why is it that I have to have so many trials?" Why it is because they haven't used this law of love sufficiently to harmonize. They are not harmonizing the people with whom they come in touch. They are not heads of departments but servants because they don't know
how to reconcile the good. Now if you are in any kind of work, I don't care what it is, begin to handle the good in the people.

Don't let that old carnal mind begin to detect the evil. Detectives are not always the most acceptable people in our civilization. I wouldn't want to be a detective because I would be looking for evil all the time. That's the carnal mind. But we all have this detective and some of us pride ourselves on it. We think, "He can't fool me, I'm too sharp for him. I'm not being led around by the nose by everybody. I can see right through these evil people. Everybody that comes to me with an evil proposition in mind, I can see right it in them." And as I say, we think that is in ourselves. We like to be so foxy that nobody can get the best of us. Well now, is that the divine mind or is that the carnal mind? Why it's the carnal mind. But you say if I don't use my discrimination, if I don't use my sharp discernment, I'll lose everything I've got. People will take every advantage of me. Well, try the other and see. Try it. For a time be credulous, let people take advantage of you. Lose everything you've got, if necessary. Jesus Christ didn't have
anything. He didn't have a place to lay his head. And yet he had everything. Well now, could we follow Jesus? Yes. We could follow him in the spirit. Get in with Jesus and go up on that high mountain then everybody that come to you asking, you would give but you would give in the spirit. But if you try to demonstrate this in carnal consciousness without associating yourself with the Christ mind, of course you would fail.

I read here not long ago of a man who began giving away all of his property. Everybody that came to him he gave it away.

Well, what did they do with him? Why in thirty days his relatives got together and had him put in an asylum and a guardian appointed. But he claimed he was doing just what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. But he didn't do it in spirit. If he had done it in Spirit, he would have accomplished what he set out and that was to distribute his good and relieve himself from the burden of possession. I don't think that one in this consciousness of the Christ, putting on the Christ, could be rich because he would see at once that his money was a burden. He would come into a con-
sciousness where he would lay hold of every good thing, he would
give people more than the millions that he might give from a
material standpoint. He would give them the real source of money.
Give them the real thing! And I think from this Sermon on the
Mount if we will come right down to fundamental principles we will
find that all these are symbols. They are symbols of ideas which
we know that the ideas are as we look back of the cloak and the coat, look
of everything that you have, there is an idea there. And you can
raise yourself on this mountain of high realization until you can

are absolutely free of your sins. And you know if you give your
cloak and your cloak in spiritual consciousness, you can keep on
giving and giving and giving and never deplete yourself. But if
you keep giving from a material standpoint why there is nothing
goes with your gift except the material thing. We know that that
wears out and disappears. So it couldn't be that Jesus was teaching
this. He was teaching of the real thing. He was teaching of the
eternal things. He was teaching us that we must understand this
divine law of our daily lives and enter into it. And there is no
escape from it. And I bless God that the Sermon on the Mount is in the Bible and that we are beginning to see its beauty, its wonderful possibilities. Now when it becomes a standard, a universal standard of all the people in the world and people everywhere accept it, it will be the foundation of an entirely new civilization and we will never have that civilization until we get this understanding. Now some people theorize about this. But do they really understand and know?

We know for example, that this earth isn't flat. But, long

as a human family have we know that? Only a few hundred years. Somebody said not long ago in one of the papers, that if a vote were taken the world round as to whether the earth were round or flat, the flats would get it. Because there are more people in the world yet, in all the savage races, that really look upon the appearance. That is, certainly the world is flat, certainly the sky comes down somewhere and

That's judging by the five sense man, the carnal mind. Now we know that we can't follow that man. Then get busy and find this higher
principle in us and put substance and life into it and put it into action and we can do that. We have the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ that it is possible for us to do these things and even greater things.

Now let us enter into this ~Spring awakening~ lets follow that old Hindu's injunction, lets recognize now that every time we see evil, every time we condemn, every time we let this old sinner which has been in possession of our consciousness, every time we let him out of his cage, he is leading us into discord and inharmony. We must cut off all these expressions. How shall we do that? By knowing that there is in us a high Christ Principle. That spiritual principle is in expression in all of its fullness, in the law as laid down by Jesus Christ. And we are going to live up to that law just as nearly as we know how. We are going to live up to it in mind to begin with. We are going to clothe our thoughts with substance, with life, with intelligence, with power. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. In my mind and my body is all power. When I have power to see the good in everybody