

THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

COUNT LYOF N. TOLSTOÏ



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The Gospel in Brief

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THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

BY

COUNT LYOF N. TOLSTOÏ

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN ORIGINAL

EMBODYING

THE AUTHOR'S LAST ALTERATIONS AND REVISIONS

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NOTE

THIS translation is one of a series from Count Tolstoï's religious and philosophic writings, undertaken with his consent and approval. Made and revised directly from the Russian manuscript containing the Author's latest revisions and alterations, it somewhat differs in form, not only from the German and French translations, but from the Russian edition. Great care has been taken, by several persons whose labours are here gratefully acknowledged, to ensure the correspondence of the translation with the Author's meaning and purpose.

The reader will be usefully informed that the four works referred to by the Author in the opening of his preface to this book are as follows, namely:—

1. *An Introduction to a Criticism of Dogmatic Theology.* A work known in English as *My Confession*.¹

2. *A Criticism of Dogmatic Theology.* In three parts; the first of which only is published in Russian, at Geneva — no part being as yet translated.

¹ Published by T. Y. Crowell & Co.

3. *The Four Gospels Harmonised and Translated*. Also in three parts; two of which have been recently published¹ in English.

4. *My Faith*. Known in English as *My Confession* and *My Religion*.²

The world that reads has everywhere heard of Tolstoï as the exponent of certain strange-seeming and revolutionary doctrines, which he identifies with the teaching of Jesus. Numbers of people everywhere have read one or another of the works in which those doctrines are presented. But there are very few people indeed, anywhere, who are aware that now, for fifteen years or more, Tolstoï has carried forward a wide, systematic and thorough scheme of work, explaining and reinforcing his position on all points and sides; some results of which are evidenced in the foregoing enumeration. Those who seek to learn from him, alike with those who would oppose him, must, if earnest and honest, remember that in Tolstoï's writings they have to reckon with a system of thought, of principles, of life. It is not enough lightly to accept, or cast aside, some idea or statement taken in detachment from its context. We have to deal with a system the parts of which stand or fall together. And anyone who realises this, may know also that there has nowhere risen one single competent critic of Tolstoï. He has said what he has to say without a shadow of real opposition. Is it that no one can oppose?

¹ By The Brotherhood Publishing Co., London.

² Published by T. Y. Crowell & Co.

This present book, then, may be taken as the Author's deliberate and careful endeavour to simplify, summarise, and emphasise all that he has before said as to Jesus and his teaching. No discussion of points or conclusions is attempted; and readers who may be startled by, and who may discredit, the new and subversive readings of the Gospel story they will here discover, must turn to *The Four Gospels Harmonised and Translated* to find the discussion and justification of them.

A word as to what may be the value of this book. We have in Tolstoï one who for nearly seventy years has taken his part in life. He has known and shared the life of the rich and great, and of the poor and humble; travel, learning, war, all have come in his way; if the world be known to any man, it surely is known to him. And for nearly a lifetime he has ranked, not in his own country merely, but through Europe, as a supreme observer and revealer of life. In *War and Peace* and *Anna Karénina* he has reproduced, as is commonly said, "life itself." In all those writings of his first period, which made his fame, there shines the one large, profound, and simple spirit of truth and good purpose.

Into his life, when past its mid-period, there comes a sudden illumination, and there transpires a spiritual change such as marks the creation of every prophet the world has had. He feels the unreasonableness, the nothingness, of the life of the world as he lives it and sees it lived around him. In his mind, man's problems of death, of his rela-

tion to the universe, of his relation to his fellows, arise in one great demand for a reasonable solution. And the solution is found—found in the Gospel of Jesus.

But not in the Gospel according to the Churches. Here, in this book, is the man Jesus, as men may with a true faith and without superstition understand him. Here, resurrected for modern times by the belief of one greatly learned in human nature and life, moves and breathes and teaches the supreme Man of Nazareth; such a one as you and I may reasonably accept. It is to be believed that many, reading this book, even though feeling that all their doubts are not solved, all their demands not satisfied, may come to say, “Whereas I was blind, now I see.”

.

In this work the Author has written the language of the Russian people, simple and idiomatic, and therefore peculiarly difficult in some points of translation. And he has replaced allusions not clear to the people in Russia by such as are clear to them: thus the “mustard seed” of Matthew xiii. 31 here becomes a “birch seed.” The essential meaning of the Gospel is followed, rather than the strict letter, “which killeth.”

October, 1896.

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THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THIS present book is extracted from a larger work, which exists in manuscript, and cannot be published in Russia.

That work consists of four parts, namely:—

1. An account of that course of my personal life, and of my thoughts, which led me to the conviction that in the Christian teaching lies the truth.

2. An investigation of the Christian teaching—first, according to the interpretation of the Greek Church solely; then, according to the interpretation of the Churches generally, and the interpretation of the apostles, councils, and so-called “fathers.” Also, an exposition of the falsity in these interpretations.

3. An investigation of the Christian teaching, based, not upon the above interpretations, but solely upon the words and deeds ascribed to Christ by the four Gospels.

4. An exposition of the real meaning of the Christian teaching, of the motives for its per-

versions, and of the consequences to which it should lead.

From the third of these parts this present volume is condensed. I have there effected the fusion of the four Gospels into one, according to the real sense of the teaching. I had no need to digress from the order in which each Gospel is written, so that in my harmonisation the transposition of verses, rather than being more, are less numerous than in the greater part of those known to me, and in our Grechoulevitch's version of the four Gospels. In my treatment of the Gospel of John there is no transposition, but all stands in the same order as in the original.

My division of the Gospel into twelve chapters (or six, since each pair of the twelve may be taken as one) came about spontaneously from the nature of the teaching. The following is the purport of the chapters:—

1. Man is the son of the Infinite Source of Being; he is the son of this Father, not by the flesh but by the spirit.

2. And therefore, man must serve the Source of his being, in the spirit.

3. The life of all men has a divine Origin. This Origin only is sacred.

4. And therefore, man must serve this Source of all human life. This is the will of the Father.

5. Service of the Will of the Father of Life is life-giving.

6. And therefore, it is not necessary to life that each man should satisfy his own will.

7. This present life in time is the food of the true life.

8. And therefore, the true life is outside time; it is in the present.

9. Time is an illusion in life; the life of the past and the future clouds men from the true life of the present.

10. And therefore, one must aim to destroy the deception arising from the past and future, the life in time.

11. The true life is that now present to us, common to all, and manifesting itself in love.

12. And therefore, he who lives by love now, in this present, becomes, through the common life of all men, at one with the Father, the source, the foundation of life.

So that the chapters, in pairs, are related as cause and effect.

Besides these twelve chapters, this exposition includes—(a) The introduction of the first chapter of the Gospel of John, where the writer of the Gospel speaks, in his own name, as to the purport of the whole teaching: and (b) a portion of the same writer's Epistle (written probably before the Gospel); this containing the general sense to be derived from the preceding exposition.

These two parts are not essential to the teaching. Although the former, as well as the latter of them, might be omitted without loss (the more so as they come in the name of John, and not of Christ), I have, nevertheless, kept them, because, to a straightforward understanding of the whole teaching, these

parts, confirming each other and the whole, as against the strange commentaries of the Churches, yield the plainest evidence of the meaning to be put upon the teaching.

At the beginning of each chapter, besides a brief indication of the subject, I had put words from the prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples, such as corresponded with the contents of the chapter.

At the conclusion of my work I found, to my astonishment and joy, that the Lord's Prayer is nothing less than Christ's whole teaching, stated in most concise form, and in that same order in which I had already arranged the chapters, each phrase of the prayer corresponding to the purport and sequence of the chapters, as follows:—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Our Father, | Man is the son of the Father. |
| 2. Which art in heaven, | God is the infinite spiritual source of life. |
| 3. Hallowed be Thy name, | May the Source of Life be held holy. |
| 4. Thy kingdom come, | May His power be established over all men. |
| 5. Thy will be done, as in heaven, | May His will be fulfilled, as it is in Himself, |
| 6. So also on earth. | So also in the bodily life. |
| 7. Give us our daily bread | The temporal life is the food of the true life. |
| 8. This day. | The true life is in the present. |
| 9. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, | May the faults and errors of the past not hide this true life from us, |
| 10. And lead us not into temptation, | And may they not lead us into delusion, |
| 11. But deliver us from evil, | So that no evil may come to us, |
| 12. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. | And there shall be order, and strength, and reason. |

In that large third part from which this work is condensed, the Gospel according to the four Evangelists is presented in full. But in the rendering now given, all passages are omitted which treat of the following matters, namely,—John the Baptist's conception and birth, his imprisonment and death; Christ's birth, and his genealogy; his mother's flight with him into Egypt; his miracles at Cana and Capernaum; the casting out of devils; the walking on the sea; the cursing of the fig-tree; the healing of sick, and the raising of dead people; the resurrection of Christ himself; and finally, the reference to prophecies fulfilled in his life.

These passages are omitted in this abridgment, because, containing nothing of the teaching, and describing only events which passed before, during, or after the period in which Jesus taught, they complicate the exposition. However one takes them, under any circumstance, they bring to the teaching of Jesus neither contradiction nor confirmation of its truth. Their sole significance for Christianity was that they proved the divinity of Jesus Christ for him who was not persuaded of this divinity beforehand. But they are useless to one whom stories of miracles are powerless to convince, and who, besides, doubts the divinity of Jesus as evidenced in his teaching.

In the large work, every departure from the ordinary version, as well as every comment added to the text, and every omission, is made clear, and proved by the comparison of the various versions of the Gospels, from the examination of contexts, and

finally, by considerations, philological and other. But in the present abridged rendering, all these arguments, and refutations of the false understanding of the Churches, as well as the minute notes and quotations, are omitted; because, however true and exact they may be in their places, they cannot carry conviction as to the true understanding of the teaching. The justness of a conception of this kind is better proved, not by arguing particular points, but by its own unity, clearness, simplicity, fulness, as well as by its harmony with the inner feelings of all who seek truth. Speaking generally, in regard to what divergence there is between my rendering and the Church's authorised text, the reader must not forget that it is a gross error to represent the four Gospels, as is often done, to be books sacred in every verse and in every syllable. The reader must not forget that Jesus never himself wrote a book, as did, for instance, Plato, Philo, or Marcus Aurelius; that he, moreover, did not, as Socrates did, transmit his teaching to informed and literate men, but spoke to a crowd of illiterate men; and that only a long time after his death men began to write down what they had heard from him.

The reader must not forget that a great number of such accounts have been written, from which, at first, the Churches selected three, and then another. Moreover, in selecting those which seemed to them the best, according to the proverb, "No stick without knots," the Churches, out of the enormous heap of the Christian literature, have been forced to take in with their bargain a great many knots; so that

the canonical Gospels contain nearly as many faulty passages as those Gospels rejected as apocryphal.

The reader must not forget that it is the teaching of Christ which may be sacred, but in no way can a certain measure of verses and syllables be so; and that certain verses, from here to here, say, cannot be sacred merely because men say they are so.

Moreover, the reader must not forget that these selected Gospels are, at anyrate, the work of thousands of various brains and hands of men; that during centuries the Gospels have been selected, enlarged, and commented upon; that the most ancient copies which have come down to us, from the fourth century, are written straight on without punctuation, so that, even after the fourth and fifth centuries, they have been the subject of the most diverse readings; and that such variations in the Gospels may be counted up to fifty thousand. The reader must have all this present in mind in order to disengage himself from the opinion, so common among us, that the Gospels, in their present shape, have come to us directly from the Holy Spirit. The reader must not forget that, far from it being blamable to disencumber the Gospels of useless passages, and to illuminate passages the one by the other, it is, on the contrary, unreasonable not to do this, and to hold a certain number of verses and syllables as sacred.

On the other hand, I pray my readers to remember that, if I do not hold the Gospels to be sacred books emanating from the Holy Spirit, I yet less regard the Gospels as mere historical monuments of

religious literature. I understand the theological as well as the historical standpoint on the Gospels, but regard the books myself from quite another. I pray the readers of my rendering not to be misled, either by the theological view, or by that other, so usual in our day among educated men, the historical view, neither of which I hold with. I consider Christianity to be neither a pure revelation nor a phase of history, but I consider it as the only doctrine which gives a meaning to life.

And it is neither theology nor history which has won me to Christianity; but just this, that, when fifty years old, having questioned myself, and having questioned the reputed philosophers whom I knew, as to what I am, and as to the purport of my life, and after getting the reply that I was a fortuitous concatenation of atoms, and that my life was void of purport, and that life itself is evil, I became desperate, and wished to put an end to my life. But after recalling to myself how formerly, in childhood, while I still had religious faith, life possessed meaning for me; and that the great mass of men about me, who hold to faith and are uncorrupted by wealth, possess the meaning of life: after all this, I was brought into doubt as to the justness of the reply given to me by the wisdom of men of my own station, and I tried once more to understand what answer it is that Christianity gives to those men who live a life with meaning. And I embarked upon the study of Christianity, as to what in this teaching guides the lives of men. I began to study that Christianity which I saw

applied in life, and to make the comparison of this applied Christianity with the sources whence it percolates. The source of the Christian teaching is the Gospels, and there I found the explanation of the spirit which animates the life of all who really live. But along with the flow of that pure, life-giving water I perceived much mire and slime unrightfully mingled therewith; and this had prevented me, so far, from seeing the real, pure water. I found that, along with the lofty Christian teaching, are bound up the teachings of Hebraism and the Church, both of which are repugnant and foreign to the former. I thus felt myself in the position of a man to whom is given a sack of refuse, who, after long struggle and wearisome labour, discovers among the refuse a number of infinitely precious pearls. This man then knows that he is not blameworthy in his distaste for the dirt, and also that those who have gathered these pearls at the same time with the rest of the sackful, and who have preserved them, are no more to blame than himself, but, on the contrary, deserve love and respect.

I knew not the light, and I thought there was no sure truth in life; but when I perceived that only light enables men to live, I sought to find the sources of the light. And I found them in the Gospels, despite the false commentaries of the Churches. And when I reached this source of light I was dazzled with its splendour, and I found there full answers to my questions as to the purport of the lives of myself and others,—answers which I

recognised as wholly harmonious with all the known answers gained among other nations, and, to my mind, surpassing all other answers.

I sought a solution of the problem of life, and not of a theological or historical question ; and that is why I was indifferent to know whether Jesus Christ is or is not God, and from whom proceeds the Holy Spirit, etc. And it is just as unimportant and unnecessary to know when and by whom such and such a Gospel was written, and whether such and such a parable came from Jesus himself or not. For me, the only important concern was this light, which, for eighteen hundred years, has shone upon mankind ; which has shone upon me likewise, and which shines upon me still. But to know, more than this, how I ought to name the source of this light, what elements compose it, and what kindled it, I in no way concerned myself.

I might end this preface here, if the Gospels were newly-discovered books, and if the teaching of Jesus had not been, these eighteen hundred years, the subject of a continuous series of false interpretations. But to-day, to rightly understand the teaching of Jesus as he must needs have understood it himself, it is indispensable to know the chief causes of these false interpretations. The prime cause of such false interpretations, which make it now so difficult for us to recover the true teaching of Jesus, is the fact that, under the cover of the Christian teaching, have been preached the teachings of the Church, which are made up from explanations of most contradictory writings, in

which only a small part of the true teaching enters; even that being distorted and adapted to the commentaries. The teaching of Christ, according to this misinterpretation, is simply one link in the great chain of revelation which began with the world's beginning and stretches into the Church of our own time.

These misinterpreters call Jesus, God; but the recognition of his divinity does not make them recognise a greater importance in his words and teaching than in the words of the Pentateuch, the Psalms, the Acts, the Epistles, the Apocalypse, or even the decisions of the Councils and the writings of the Fathers.

And this false understanding allows no presentment of the teaching of Jesus which does not accord with the revelations which have preceded and followed him; doing this with the purpose, not to make clear the meaning of the teaching of Jesus, but to harmonise, as far as possible, various writings which contradict each other; such as the Pentateuch, the Psalms, the Gospels, Epistles, Acts, and, generally, all those which pass for sacred.

It is possible, indeed, to make a limitless number of such interpretations, having for object, not truth, but the reconciliation of those two irreconcilables, the Old and the New Testaments. And, in fact, the number of these is unlimited. This is the case with the Epistles of Paul, and with the decisions of the Councils (which last begin with the formula: "It is the will of us and the Holy Spirit"); and such, also, is the case with the

decrees of popes and synods, with the teachings of the Khlysty,¹ and with all false interpreters of the thought of Jesus. All recur to the same gross sanctions of the truth of their reconcilements, affirming that these reconcilements are not the result of their personal thought, but a direct witness from the Holy Spirit.

Without entering upon an analysis of these different dogmatic systems, each of which pretends to be the only true one, we may, nevertheless, well see that all of them, beginning by holding sacred the multitude of writings which make up the Old and New Testaments, thereby impose upon themselves an insurmountable barrier to the understanding of the real teaching of Jesus; and out of this confusion necessarily results the possibility, and even the necessity, of an infinite variety of opposed sects.

The reconcilement of all the revelations can be infinitely varied, but the explanation of the teaching of one person, and one looked upon as a God, should, on the contrary, not give rise to any difference of sect. It is impossible there should be conflicting ways of interpreting the teaching of a God come down to earth. If God had so come down to reveal unfailing truth to men, at least He would have revealed it in such a way that all might understand; if, then, this has not been done, that is because it was not God who came; or if, indeed, the truths of God are such that God Himself cannot make them plain to mankind, how can men do so?

¹ A Russian sect.

If, on the other hand, Jesus was not God, but only a great man, his teaching can still less engender sects. For the teaching of a great man is only great because it explains in a clear, understandable way that which others have set out obscurely, incomprehensibly. That which is incomprehensible in the teaching of a great man is not great. The teaching of a great man can, therefore, engender no sects. Only, then, this interpretation, which pretends to be a revelation from the Holy Spirit, and to contain the sole truth, raises up antagonisms and gives birth to sects. However much the sects of various religions may assure us that they do not condemn those of other sects, that they pray for union with them, and have no hate to them, it is not true. Never, since the time of Arius, has a single dogma arisen from other cause than the desire to contradict an opposing dogma.

To maintain that a particular dogma is a divine revelation, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is in the highest degree presumption and folly. The highest presumption, because there is nothing more arrogant than for a man to say, "What I tell you, God Himself says through my mouth." And the highest folly, because there is nothing more stupid than to reply to one who says that God speaks by his mouth, "God says quite the opposite, and by mine own mouth." But in this way reason all the Churches; and hence have been born, and are now being born, all the sects and all the evil brought, and being brought, into the world in the name of religion.

And yet deeper than this surface evil, all the sects cherish a second internal vice, which destroys in them any character of clearness, certainty, and honesty. It is this. While these sects present us with their false interpretations, as the last revelation from the Holy Spirit, they are careful never to precisely and decisively determine what is the very essence and purport of this revelation, which they profess is continued through them, and which they call "the Christian teaching."

All the sectarians who accept the revelation from the Holy Spirit, along with the Mahometans, recognise Moses, Jesus, and Mahomet. The Churchmen accept Moses, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But to Mahometanism, Mahomet is the last prophet, who alone has given the definite explanation of the two preceding revelations,—this is the last revelation, which explains all the preceding; and this one every true believer has before him. With the religion of the Churches it is quite otherwise. That also, like the Mahometan, accepts three revelations, but in place of calling their religion by the name of their last revealer, that is, the "religion of the Holy Spirit," they maintain their religion to be that of Jesus, and refer themselves to his teaching. So that, in giving to us what are really their own doctrines, they pretend to rest them upon the authority of Jesus.

Those religions of the Holy Spirit which offer to us the last and most decisive of revelations, whether it be in the writings of the Apostle Paul or the

decisions of such-and-such Councils, or the decrees of popes or patriarchs, ought to say so, and call their faith by the name of him who had the last revelation. And if the last revelation is by the fathers of the Church, or a decree of the Patriarch of the East, or a papal encyclical, or the syllabus or the catechism of Luther or Philaretus, people should say so, and call their faith by this name ; because the last revelation, which explains all the preceding, is always the most important one. But they decline to adorn their dogmatic systems with the names of these authorities, and, continuing to preach quite against Christ's own teaching, they persist in maintaining that Jesus has revealed their doctrine to them. So that, according to their teaching, Jesus declared that he, by his blood, redeemed our humanity, ruined through Adam's sin ; that there are three Persons in God ; that the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles, and was transmitted to the priesthood by the laying on of hands ; that seven sacraments are necessary to salvation ; that communion must be in two kinds ; and so on. They would have us believe that all this is part of the teaching of Jesus ; whereas we shall there seek in vain even the least allusion to any such matters. The Churches which so pretend would do well in concluding to give all this to us at once as the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, not of Jesus ; for, in short, only those are Christians who hold the revelation of Jesus himself as the decisive one, in virtue of his own saying, that his followers must own no other master than himself.

It would seem that the matter is so plain that it is not worth thinking about; but however strange it seems to say so, it is none the less true that up till now the teaching of Jesus is not separated, on the one hand, from artificial and unwarrantable connection with the Old Testament, and, on the other hand, from the superadded fantastic notions which have been imposed upon it under cover of the name of the Holy Spirit. Up to now, there are some who, in calling Jesus the second Person of the Trinity, will not conceive of his teaching otherwise than as in accordance with the so-called revelations of the third Person, as these are found in the Old Testament, the decrees of Councils, and the conclusions of the Fathers of the Church; and in preaching the most extravagant things, they affirm these extravagancies to be the religion of Christ. Others there are who, in refusing to regard Jesus as a God, similarly conceive of his teaching, not at all as he himself declared it, but as what Paul and the other interpreters have made of it. Whilst considering Jesus as a man, and not as a God, these learned men deprive him of a common natural right: the right of being held responsible for his own words only, and not for the words of his misinterpreters. In their endeavours to elucidate the teaching of Jesus, they attribute to him ideas which he never thought of uttering. The representatives of this school, to begin with Renan, the most popular of them, do not see it their duty to take the trouble of distinguishing between that which bears the stamp of

Jesus himself and that which his interpreters have wrongly ascribed to him. And, instead of thus troubling to search out the teaching of Jesus himself a little more deeply than the Churches have done, they have been led to seek in the events of his life, and in the facts of history contemporary with him, the explanation of his influence and of the diffusion of his ideas.

The problem they are called upon to solve is, in effect, this—

Eighteen hundred years ago a poor wanderer appeared on earth who taught certain things. He was flogged and executed. And since then, although many and many just men have suffered for the belief, millions of people, wise and foolish, learned and ignorant, cannot shake off the conviction that this man, alone among men, was God. Here is a strange phenomenon; how is it to be explained? The Churches explain it by saying that this man, Jesus, was really God, by which everything is explained. But if this man was not God, how are we to explain why this mere man, in particular, has been acknowledged as God?

On this point the learned people of our schools of history gather with extreme care every detail of the life of this man, without noticing that, even though they should succeed in gathering a great number of these details (in truth, they have gathered none); and even though they should succeed in entirely reconstructing the life of Jesus in the smallest details, the supreme question remains unanswered,—the question as to why Jesus, and no

one else, exercised such an influence over men. The answer to this is not found in knowledge of the society in which Jesus was born, brought up, and so on; still less is it found in knowledge of the happenings in the Roman world at about this time, or in the fact that the people were inclined to superstitious beliefs. To gain this answer, it is only needful to find what precisely was the especial mark of Jesus which has led so many people to raise him above the rest of men, and, for eighteen hundred years, to hold him as a God.

He who would solve this problem, it would seem, must, before all, bring himself to understand the teaching of Jesus; his true teaching, clearly seen, and not the crude interpretations which have been put upon it. But this is just what is neglected. The learned historians of Christianity are so satisfied to think that Jesus was no God, they are so keen to prove that his teaching holds nothing divine, and is, therefore, not binding, that they are not alive to a very plain fact: they do not see that, the more they prove Jesus to have been simply a man, and in nothing divine, the darker and more insoluble they make the problem they have in hand. They are making their full efforts to prove that he was simply a man, that, therefore, his teaching is not obligatory. To see clearly this astonishing error, one has only to remember the last writings of Renan's follower, M. Havet, who remarks, with much simplicity, "Christ was never, in anything, a Christian." And M. Soury, for his part, is altogether ravished with

the idea that Jesus was a cultureless man, a simple soul.

The essential thing is: not to prove that Jesus was no God, and his doctrine not divine, any more than to prove he was not a Catholic: but to know what his teaching essentially is; that teaching which has seemed to men so lofty and so precious, that they have again and again owned him for God who gave it to them.

If the reader belongs to that vast body of educated men who have been brought up in the beliefs of a Church, and who have not renounced its absurdities; if he be a man of reason and conscience (whether retaining love and respect for the Christian teaching, or whether, following the proverb, "Burn the coat now the vermin have got in," he thinks the whole of Christianity a pernicious superstition), I pray him to reflect that that which shocks him, and seems to him a superstition, is not the real teaching of Jesus; and that it were unjust to make Jesus responsible for the follies which have, since his time, encrusted his teaching. It is only necessary to study the teaching of Jesus in its proper form, as it has come down to us in the words and deeds which are recorded as his own. With readers of the kind I have addressed, my book will go to show that Christianity is not only a mixture of things sublime and things base; that it is not only not a superstition, but that, on the contrary, it is the most convincing presentment of metaphysics and morals, the purest and most complete doctrine of life, and the highest light which the human mind has ever

reached ; a doctrine from which all the noblest activities of humanity in politics, science, poetry, and philosophy instinctively derive themselves.

If, on the other hand, my reader belongs to that small minority of educated men who remain attached to Church doctrines, and who accept religion, not for an outward end, but to gain inward quietude, then I ask such a reader to remember that the teaching of Christ, as set forth herein, is quite other than that teaching as he has been given to understand it ; and that, therefore, the question for him is, not as to whether the doctrine here put before him agrees with his beliefs, but, as to which is more in harmony with his reason and his heart—the teaching of his Church composed of reconcilements of many scriptures, or the pure teaching of Jesus. It concerns him only to decide whether he will accept the new teaching, or whether he prefers to retain the teaching of his Church.

If, finally, my reader belongs to the category of men who value and accept outwardly the belief of some Church, not at all for truth's sake, but for the outward consideration of gains that come therefrom, such an one should inform himself that, whatever be the number of his co-religionists, whatever their power, whatever their station, even though monarchs, and whatever lofty personages they can reckon among them, he himself forms one of a party, not of the accusers, but of the accused. Such readers should inform themselves that they are not asked to furnish arguments for their case,

because, this long while, all such arguments have been given which can be given; and even should they cite their proofs, they would only prove that which every one of the hundreds of opposing sects proves in its own case.

And, in truth, such people need not to prove anything, but to clear themselves, first, of the sacrilege they commit in putting the teaching of Jesus, whom they hold to be God, upon the same footing as the teachings of Ezra, of the Councils, of Theophylact; and in allowing themselves to distort the sayings of God into agreement with the sayings of men. Again, they must clear themselves of blasphemy in ascribing to God-Jesus all the zealotry which abides in their own hearts, and declaring it to be teaching of Christ. And finally, they must clear themselves of the treason they commit in hiding from men the teaching of God, who has come down to earth to bring us salvation; and by sliding in, to displace this teaching, the tradition of the Holy Spirit, thus depriving thousands of millions of that salvation which Jesus brought for men; and thus, instead of peace and love, bringing in all the diversity of sects, and all the recriminations, murders, and all sorts of misdeeds which follow.

For these readers there are only two issues: either to make humble submission, and renounce their deceits; or, to persecute those who arise to accuse them of the evil they have done and are doing.

If they will not renounce their deceits, it remains

for them to take the only other part, that is, to persecute me. For which, in now completing my writing, I am prepared, with joy, and with fear for my own human weakness.

LEO TOLSTOY.

CHAPTER I

THE SON OF GOD

*Man, the son of God, is powerless in the flesh, and
free in the spirit*

(“Our Father”)

- Mt. i. 18. THE birth of Jesus Christ was thus :
His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph.
But, before they began to live as man and wife,
19. Mary proved with child. But Joseph was a good
man, and did not wish to disgrace her; he took
24. her as his wife, and had nothing to do with her
25. until she had borne her first son, and called him
Jesus.
- Lk. ii. 40. And the boy grew and matured, and was intel-
ligent beyond his years.
41. Jesus was twelve years old; and it happened
42. that Mary and Joseph went to the feast at
43. Jerusalem, and took the boy with them. The
44. feast was over, and they went homeward, and
forgot about the boy. Afterwards they recollected,
and thought that he had gone off with the children,
45. and they inquired about him along the road. He
was nowhere to be found, and they went back to
46. Jerusalem after him. And it was the third day

before they found the boy in the temple, sitting with the teachers, questioning them and listening. And everyone wondered at his intelligence. His mother caught sight of him, and said: "Why have you done this way with us? Your father and I have been grieving, and looking for you." And he said to them: "But where did you look for me? Surely you know that the son must be looked for in his Father's house?" And they did not understand his words; they did not understand whom it was he called his Father

And after this, Jesus lived at his mother's, and obeyed her in everything. And he advanced in age and intelligence. And everyone thought that Jesus was the son of Joseph; and so he lived to the age of thirty.

At that time the prophet John appeared in Judæa. He lived in the desert of Judæa, on the Jordan. John's clothes were of camel's hair, girt round the waist with a strap; and he fed on bark and herbs.

He summoned the people to a change of life, in order to get rid of wickedness; and, as a sign of the change of life, he bathed people in the Jordan. He said: "A voice calls to you: Open a way for God through the wild places, clear the way for Him. Make it so that all may be level, that there may be neither hollows nor hills, neither high nor low. Then God will be among you, and all will find their salvation."

And the people asked him: "What are we to do?" He answered: "Let him who has two suits of clothes, give one to him who has none. Let him

Lk. ii. 47.

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iii. 23.

Mt. iii. 1.

Mk. i. 4.

Mt. iii. 4.

Mk. i. 4.

Lk. iii. 4.

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Lk. iii. 12. | who has food, give to him who has none." And
 13. | tax-collectors came to him, and asked: "What are
 14. | we to do?" He said to them: "Extort nothing
 beyond what is ordered." And soldiers asked:
 "How are we to live?" He said: "Do no one any
 harm, do not deal falsely; be content with what is
 served out to you."

Mt. iii. 5. | And inhabitants of Jerusalem came to him, and
 all the Jews in the neighbourhood of the Jordan.
 6. | And they acknowledged their wickedness to him;
 and, in sign of the change of life, he bathed them
 in the Jordan.

7. | And many of the orthodox and conventional
 religionists also came to John, but secretly. He
 recognised them, and said: "You race of vipers!
 Have you, also, got wind of it, that you cannot
 escape the will of God? Then bethink yourselves,
 8. | and change your faith! And if you wish to change
 your faith, let it be seen by your fruits that you
 have bethought yourselves. The axe is already
 10. | laid to the tree. If the tree produces bad fruit, it
 11. | will be cut down and cast into the fire. In sign of
 your change, I cleanse you in water; but, along
 with this bathing, you must be cleansed with the
 12. | spirit. The spirit will cleanse you, as a master
 cleanses his threshing-floor; when he gathers the
 wheat, but burns the chaff."

13. | Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be bathed
 by John; and he bathed, and heard John's preaching.

iv. 1. | And from the Jordan he went into the wild places,
 2. | and there he strove in the spirit. Jesus passed forty
 days and nights in the desert, without food or drink.

And the voice of his flesh said to him: "If you were Son of the Almighty God, you might of your own will make loaves out of stones; but you cannot do this, therefore you are not Son of God." But Jesus said to himself: "If I cannot make bread out of stones, this means that I am not Son of a God of the flesh, but Son of the God of the spirit. I am alive, not by bread, but by the spirit. And my spirit is able to disregard the flesh." Lk. iv. 3. 4.

But hunger, nevertheless, tormented him; and the voice of the flesh again said to him: "If you live only by the spirit, and can disregard the flesh, then you can throw off the flesh, and your spirit will remain alive." And it seemed to him that he was standing on the roof of the temple, and the voice of the flesh said to him: "If you are Son of the God of the spirit, throw yourself off the temple. You will not be killed. But an unforeseen force will keep you, support you, and save you from all harm." But Jesus said to himself: "I can disregard the flesh, but may not throw it off, because I was born by the spirit into the flesh. This was the will of the Father of my spirit, and I cannot oppose Him." 9. 10. 11. 12.

Then the voice of the flesh said to him: "If you cannot oppose your Father by throwing yourself off the temple and discarding life, then you also cannot oppose your Father by hungering when you need to eat. You must not make light of the desires of the flesh; they were placed in you, and you must serve them." Then Jesus seemed to see all the kingdoms of the earth, and all mankind, just 5.

Lk. iv. 6. as they live and labour for the flesh, expecting gain
 7. therefrom. And the voice of the flesh said to him :
 8. " Well, you see, these work for me, and I give them
 9. all they wish for. If you will work for me, you
 10. will have the same." But Jesus said to himself :
 11. " My Father is not flesh, but spirit. I live by Him ;
 12. I always know that He is in me. Him alone I
 13. honour, and for Him alone I work, expecting reward
 14. from Him alone."

13. Then the temptation ceased, and Jesus knew the
 14. power of the spirit.

Jn. i. 35. And when he had known the power of the spirit,
 36. Jesus went out of the wild places, and went again
 37. to John, and stayed with him.

36. And when Jesus was leaving John, John said of
 37. him : " This is the saviour of men."

37. On account of these words of John, two of John's
 38. disciples left their former teacher and went after
 39. Jesus. Jesus, seeing them following him, stopped
 40. and said : " What do you want ?" They said to
 41. him : " Teacher ! we wish to be with you, and to
 42. know your teaching." He said : " Come with me,
 43. and I will tell you everything." They went with
 44. him, and stayed with him, listening to him until
 45. the tenth hour.

40. One of these disciples was called Andrew.
 41. Andrew had a brother Simon. Having heard Jesus,
 42. Andrew went to his brother Simon, and said to
 43. him : " We have found him of whom the prophets
 44. wrote, the Messiah ; we have found him who has
 45. announced to us our salvation." Andrew took
 46. Simon with him, and brought him also to Jesus.

Jesus called this brother of Andrew, Peter, which means a stone. And both these brothers became disciples of Jesus.

Afterwards, before entering Galilee, Jesus met Philip, and called him to go with him. Philip was from Bethsaida, and a fellow-villager of Peter and Andrew. When Philip knew Jesus, he went and found his brother Nathanael, and said to him : "We have found the chosen of God, of whom the prophets and Moses wrote. This is Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth." Nathanael was astonished that he of whom the prophets wrote should be from the neighbouring village, and said : "It is most unlikely that the messenger of God should be from Nazareth." Philip said : "Come with me, you shall see and hear for yourself." Nathanael agreed, and went with his brother, and met Jesus ; and, when he had heard him, he said to Jesus : "Yes, now I see that this is true, that you are the Son of God and the king of Israel." Jesus said to him : "Learn something more important than that. Henceforth heaven is opened, and people may be in communion with the forces of heaven. Henceforth God will be no longer separate from men."

And Jesus came home to Nazareth ; and on the Sabbath he went as usual into the synagogue, and began to read. They gave him the book of the prophet Isaiah, and, unrolling it, he began to read. In the book was written :

"The spirit of the Lord is in me. He has chosen me to announce happiness to the unfortunate and

Jn. i. 43.

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Lk. iv. 16.

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Lk. iv. 19. | the broken-hearted, to announce freedom to those
| who are bound, light to the blind, and salvation and
| rest to the weary. To announce to all men the
| time of God's mercy."
20. | He folded the book, gave it to the attendant, and
| sat down. And all waited to hear what he should
21. | say. And he said: "This writing has now been
| fulfilled before your eyes."

CHAPTER II

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

*Therefore man must work, not for the flesh, but for
the spirit*

(“Which art in heaven”)

IT happened once that Jesus, with his disciples, went through a field on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and on the way plucked ears of corn, bruised them in their hands, and ate the grain. But, according to the teaching of the orthodox, God had made an agreement with Moses, that all should observe the Sabbath, and do nothing on that day. According to this teaching of the orthodox, God commanded that he who worked on the Sabbath should be stoned to death. The orthodox saw that the disciples were bruising ears of corn on the Sabbath, and said: “It is not right to do so on the Sabbath. One must not work on the Sabbath, and you are bruising ears of corn. God ordained the Sabbath, and commanded the breaking of it should be punished with death.” Jesus heard this, and said: “If you understand what is the meaning of God’s words, ‘I desire love, and not sacrifice,’ you would not attach blame to that which is not blameworthy. Man is more important than the Sabbath.”

Mt. xii. 1.
Mk. ii. 23.
Lk. vi. 1.

Mt. xii. 2.

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- Lk. xiii. 10. It happened another time, on a Sabbath, that,
 11. when Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, a sick
 12-14. woman came up to him and asked him to help her.
 And Jesus began to cure her. Then the orthodox
 church-elder was angry with Jesus for this, and said
 to the people: "It is said in the law of God: There
 xiv. 3. are six days in the week on which to work." But
 Jesus, in reply, asked the orthodox professors of the
 law: "Well, then, in your opinion, may not one
 6. help a man on the Sabbath?" And they did not
 5. know what to answer. Then Jesus said: "De-
 Lk. xiii. 15. ceivers! Does not each of you untie his beast from
 the manger and lead him to water on the Sabbath?
 Mt. xii. 11. And if his sheep falls into a well, anyone will run
 and drag it out, although even on the Sabbath.
 12. And a man is much better than a sheep. But
 you say that one must not help a man. What,
 Mk. iii. 4. then, in your opinion, must one do on the Sabbath,
 good or evil: Save a soul or destroy it? Good
 must be done always, on the Sabbath too."
- Mt. ix. 9. Jesus once saw a tax-gatherer receiving taxes.
 The tax-gatherer was called Matthew. Jesus began
 to speak with him, and Matthew understood him,
 liked his teaching, and invited him to his house,
 10. and showed him hospitality. When Jesus came to
 Matthew, there came also Matthew's friends, tax-
 gatherers and unbelievers, and Jesus did not disdain
 11. them, and sat down, he and his disciples. And
 the orthodox saw this, and said to Jesus' disciples:
 "How is it that your teacher eats with tax-gatherers
 and unbelievers?" According to the teaching of
 the orthodox. God forbade communion with un-

believers. Jesus heard, and said: "He who is satisfied with his health does not need a doctor, but he who is ill, does. Understand what is the meaning of God's words: 'I desire love and not sacrifice.' I cannot teach a change of faith to those who consider themselves orthodox, but I teach those who consider themselves unbelievers."

There came to Jesus orthodox professors of the law from Jerusalem. And they saw that his disciples and Jesus himself ate bread with unwashed hands; and these orthodox began to condemn him for this, because they themselves strictly observed, according to church tradition, how plates and dishes should be washed, and would not eat unless they had been so washed. Also, they would eat nothing from the market unless they had washed it.

And the orthodox professors of the law asked him: "Why do you live not according to church tradition, but take and eat bread with unwashed hands?" And he answered them: "But in what way do you break God's commandment, following your church tradition? God said to you: 'Honour your father and mother.' But you have twisted it so that everyone can say: 'I give to God what I used to give my parents.' And he who so says need not support his father and mother. Thus, then, you break God's commandment by church tradition. Deceivers! The prophet Isaiah spoke the truth about you: 'Because this people only fall down before me in words, and honour me with their tongue, while their heart is far from me; and be-

Mt. ix. 12.

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Mk. xv. 1.

Mk. vii. 1.

Mt. xv. 2.

Mk. vii. 2.

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Mt. xv. 3.

Mk. vii. 10,

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Mt. xv. 7.

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Mk. vii. 8.

cause their fear of me is only a human law which they have learnt by heart; therefore I will perform a wonderful, an extraordinary thing upon this people: The wisdom of its wise men shall be lost, and the reason of its thinkers shall be dimmed. Woe to them who take thought to hide their desires from the Eternal, and who do their deeds in darkness.' And so it is with you: You leave that which is important in the law, that which is God's commandment, and observe your human tradition as to the washing of cups!"

14. And Jesus called the people to him, and said:
15. "Hearken all, and understand: There is nothing in
the world that, entering a man, could defile him;
but that which goes forth from him, this defiles a
man. Let love and mercy be in your soul, and
16. then all will be clean. Try to understand this."

17. And when he returned home, his disciples asked
18. him: "What do these words mean?" And he
said: "Do you also not understand this? Do you
not understand that everything external, that which
19. is of the flesh, cannot defile a man? The reason
is, it enters not his soul, but his body. It enters
20. the body, and afterwards goes out from it. Only
that can defile a man which goes out from the man
21. himself, from his soul. Because from the soul of
man proceed evil, fornication, impurity, murder,
theft, covetousness, wrath, deceit, insolence, envy,
23. calumny, pride, and every kind of folly. All this
evil is out of the soul of man and it alone can
defile a man."

Jn. ii. 13.

After this, the Passover came, and Jesus went to

<p>Jerusalem, and entered the temple. In the enclosure of the temple stood cattle, cows, bulls, rams; and there were cots full of pigeons, and money-changers behind their counters. All this was necessary in order to make offerings to God. The animals were slaughtered and offered in the temple. This was the method of prayer among the Jews, as taught by the orthodox professors of the law. Jesus went into the temple, twisted a whip, drove all the cattle out of the enclosure, and set free all the doves. And he scattered all the money, and bade that none of this should be brought into the temple. He said: "The prophet Isaiah said to you: The house of God is not the temple in Jerusalem, but the whole world of God's people. And the prophet Jeremiah also told you: Do not believe the falsehoods that here is the house of the Eternal. Do not believe this, but change your life; do not judge falsely; do not oppress the stranger, the widow and the orphan; do not shed innocent blood, and do not come into the house of God, and say: Now we may quietly do foul deeds. Do not make my house a den of robbers."</p> <p>And the Jews began to dispute, and said to him: "You say that our piety is wrong. By what proofs will you show this?" And, turning to them, Jesus said: "Destroy this temple and I will in three days awaken a new, living temple." And the Jews said: "But how will you at once make a new temple, when this was forty-six years in building?" And Jesus said to them: "I speak to you of that which is more important than the temple. You would</p>	<p>Jn. ii. 14.</p> <p>15.</p> <p>16.</p> <p>Mt. xxi. 13.</p> <p>Mk. xi. 17. (Isa. lvi. 7, Jer. vii. 4, 11).</p> <p>18.</p> <p>19.</p> <p>20.</p> <p>Mt. xii. 6.</p> <p>7.</p>
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not say this if you understood the meaning of the words of the prophet: I, God, do not rejoice at your offerings, but rejoice at your love to each other. The living temple is the whole world of men, when they love each other."

Jn. ii. 23. And then in Jerusalem many people believed in
24. what he said. But he himself believed in nothing
25. external, because he knew that everything is within
man. He had no need that anyone should give
witness of man, because he knew that in man is
the spirit.

iv. 4. And Jesus happened once to be passing through
5. Samaria. He passed by the Samaritan village of
Sychar, near the place which Jacob gave to his son
6. Joseph. There was Jacob's well. Jesus was tired,
8. and sat beside the well. His disciples went into
7. the town to fetch bread. And a woman came from
Sychar to draw water, and Jesus asked her to give
9. him to drink. And she said to him: "How is it
that you ask me to give you to drink? For you
Jews have no intercourse with us Samaritans."

10. But he said to her: "If you knew me, and
knew what I teach, you would not say this, and
you would give me to drink, and I would give you
13. the water of life. Whoever drinks of the water
14. you have will thirst again. But whoever shall drink
of the water I have shall always be satisfied, and
19. this water shall bring him everlasting life." The
woman understood that he was speaking of things
divine, and said to him: "I see that you are a
20. prophet, and wish to teach me. But how are you
to teach me divine things, when you are a Jew and

I a Samaritan? Our people worship God upon this hill, but you Jews say that the house of God is only in Jerusalem. You cannot teach me divine things, because you have one belief, and we another." And Jesus said to her: "Believe me, woman, the time is already here, when people, to pray to the Father, will come neither to this hill nor to Jerusalem. The time has come when the real worshippers of God will worship the Heavenly Father in spirit and with works. Such are the worshippers the Father needs. God is a spirit, and He must be worshipped in the spirit and with works." The woman did not understand what he told her, and said: "I have heard that the messenger of God will come, he whom they call the anointed. He will then declare everything." And Jesus said to her: "It is I, the same who has spoken with you. Expect nothing more."

Jn. iv. 21.

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After this, Jesus came into the land of Judæa, and there lived with his disciples, and taught. At that time John taught the people near Salim, and bathed them in the river Ænon. For John was not yet put in prison.

iii. 22.

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And a dispute arose between the disciples of John and the hearers of Jesus, as to which was better, John's cleansing in water or Jesus' teaching. And they came to John, and said to him: "You cleanse with water, but Jesus only teaches, and all go to him. What have you to say of him?" John said: "A man of himself can teach nothing, unless God teach him. Who speaks of the earth, is of the earth; but whosoever speaks of God,

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Jn. iii. 32-34. is from God. It is nowise possible to prove whether the words that are spoken are from God or not from God. God is a spirit; He cannot be measured, and He cannot be proved. He who shall understand the word of the spirit, by this very thing proves
 35. that he is of the spirit. The Father, loving His
 36. Son, has entrusted all to him. Whoever believes in the Son has life, and whoever does not believe in the Son has not life. God is the spirit in man."

Lk. xi. 37. After this there came to Jesus one of the orthodox, and invited him to dinner. Jesus went in
 38. and sat down at table. The host noticed that he did not wash before dinner, and wondered thereat.
 39-41. And Jesus said to him: "You orthodox wash everything outside; but are you clean inside? Be well-disposed to men, and all will be clean."

vii. 37. And while he sat in the house of the orthodox, there came a woman of the town, who was an unbeliever. She had learnt that Jesus was in the house of the orthodox man, and she came there too,
 38. bringing a bottle of scent. And she knelt at his feet, wept, and washed his feet with her tears,
 39. wiped them with her hair, and poured scent over them. The orthodox man saw this, and thought to himself: "He is hardly a prophet. If he were really a prophet, he would know what kind of a woman it is that is washing his feet. He would know that this is a wrong-doer, and would not
 40. allow her to touch him." Jesus guessed his thought, and, turning to him, said: "Shall I tell
 41. you what I think?" The host assented. And Jesus said: "Well, it is this. Two men held them-

selves debtors to a certain man of property, one for five hundred pence, the other for fifty. And neither the one nor the other had anything to pay with. The creditor pardoned both. Now, in your opinion, which will love the creditor more, and shew him greater attention?" And he said: "Of course, he that owed more." Jesus pointed to the woman, and said: "So it is with you and this woman. You consider yourself orthodox, and therefore a small debtor; she considers herself an unbeliever, and therefore a great debtor. I came to your house; you did not give me water to wash my feet. She washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. You did not kiss me, but she kissed my feet. You did not give me oil to anoint my head, but she anoints my feet with precious scent. He who rests in orthodoxy will not do works of love, but he who considers himself an unbeliever will do works of love. And for works of love, all is forgiven." And he said to her: "All your wickedness is forgiven you." And Jesus said: "All depends upon what each man considers himself. Whoever considers himself good will not be good; but whoever considers himself bad will become good."

And Jesus said further: "Two men once came into a temple to pray; one orthodox, and the other a tax-gatherer. The orthodox man prayed thus: 'I thank Thee, God, that I am not as other men, I am not a miser, nor a libertine; I am not a rogue, not such a worthless fellow as that tax-gatherer. I fast twice weekly, and give away

Lk. vii. 42.

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xviii. 10.

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- Lk. xviii. 13. a tithe of my property.' But the tax-gatherer stood afar off, and dared not look up at the sky, but merely beat his breast, and said: 'Lord, look
14. down upon me, worthless as I am.' Well, and this man was better than the orthodox, for the reason that whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."
- v. 33. After this, disciples of John came to Jesus, and said: "Why do we and the orthodox fast much, while your disciples do not fast? For, according
34. to the law, God commanded people to fast." And Jesus said to them: "While the bridegroom is at
35. the wedding, no one grieves. Only when the bridegroom is away, do people grieve. Having life, one
36. must not grieve. The external worship of God cannot be combined with works of love. The old teaching of the external worship of God cannot be combined with my teaching of works of love to one's neighbour. To combine my teaching with the old, is the same as to tear off a shred from a new garment and sew it on an old one. You will tear the new and not mend the old. Either all my teaching must be accepted, or all the old. And having once accepted my teaching, it is impossible to keep the old teaching, of purification, fasting, and the Sabbath.
37. Just as new wine cannot be poured into old skins, or the old skins will burst and the wine run out.
38. But new wine must be poured into new skins, and both the one and the other will remain whole."

CHAPTER III

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

The life of all men has proceeded from the spirit of the Father

(“Hallowed be Thy Name”)

AFTER this, John’s disciples came to ask Jesus whether it was he of whom John spoke; whether he was revealing the kingdom of God, and renewing men by the spirit? Jesus answered and said: “Look, listen,—and tell John, whether the kingdom of God has begun, and whether people are being renewed by the spirit. Tell him of what kingdom of God I am preaching. It is said in the prophecies that, when the kingdom of God shall come, all men will be blessed. Well, tell him that my kingdom of God is such that the poor are blessed, and that every one who understands me becomes blessed.”

And, having dismissed John’s disciples, Jesus began to speak to the people as to the kingdom of God John announced. He said: “When you went to John in the wilderness to be baptized, what did you go to see? The orthodox teachers of the law also went, but did not understand that which John announced. And they thought him nothing

Mt. xi. 2,
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Mt. xi. 18. worth. This breed of orthodox teachers of the law only consider that as truth which they themselves invent and hear from each other, and that as law which they themselves have devised. But that which John said, that which I say, they do not hearken to, and do not understand. Of that which John says, they have understood only that he fasts in the wild places, and they say: 'In him
 19. is an evil spirit.' Of that which I say, they have understood only that I do not fast, and they say: 'He eats and drinks with tax-gatherers and sinners
 17. —he is a friend of theirs.' They chatter with each other like children in the street, and wonder that
 19. no one listens to them. And their wisdom is seen
 8. by their works. If you went to John to look at a man attired in rich clothes, why, such dwell here
 9. in palaces. Then, what did you go to seek in the desert? Did you go because you think John was the same as other prophets? Do not think this. John was not a prophet like others. He was greater than all prophets. They foretold that which might be. He has announced to men that which is, namely, that the kingdom of God was,
 10. and is, on earth. Verily, I tell you, a man has not been born greater than John. He has declared the kingdom of God on earth, and therefore he is higher than all. The law and the prophets,—all this was needful before John. But, from John and to the present time, it is announced that the kingdom of God is on earth, and that he who makes an effort enters into it."

xvii. 20. And the orthodox came to Jesus, and began

asking him: "How, then, and when, will the kingdom of God come?" And he answered them: "The kingdom of God which I preach is not such as former prophets preached. They said that God would come with divers visible signs, but I speak of a kingdom of God, the coming of which may not be seen with the eyes. And if anyone shall say to you, 'See, it is come, or it shall come,' or, 'See, it is here or there,' do not believe them. The kingdom of God is not in time, or in place, of any kind. It is like lightning, seen here, there, and everywhere. And it has neither time nor place, because the kingdom of God, the one which I preach, is within you."

Lk. xvii. 23.

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After this, an orthodox believer, one of the Jewish authorities, named Nicodemus, came to Jesus at night, and said: "You do not bid us keep the Sabbath, do not bid us observe cleanliness, do not bid us make offerings, nor fast; you would destroy the temple. You say of God, He is a spirit, and you say of the kingdom of God, that it is within us. Then, what kind of a kingdom of God is this?"

Jn. iii. 1,
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And Jesus answered him: "Understand that, if man is conceived from heaven, then in him there must be that which is of heaven."

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Nicodemus did not understand this, and said: "How can a man, if he is conceived of the flesh of his father, and has grown old, again enter the womb of his mother and be conceived anew?"

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And Jesus answered him: "Understand what I say. I say that man, beside the flesh, is also conceived of the spirit, and therefore every man is

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- Jn. iii. 6. | conceived of flesh and spirit, and therefore may the
kingdom of heaven be in him. From flesh comes
flesh. From flesh, spirit cannot be born; spirit
8. | can come only from spirit. The spirit is that
which lives in you, and lives in freedom and
reason; it is that of which you know neither the
beginning nor the end, and which every man feels
7. | in him. And, therefore, why do you wonder that
I told you we must be conceived from heaven?"
9. | Nicodemus said: "Still, I do not believe that
this can be so."
10. | Then Jesus said to him: "What kind of a
teacher are you, if you do not comprehend this?
11. | Understand that I am not interpreting some learned
points; I am interpreting that which we all know,
12. | I am averring that which we all see. How will
you believe in that which is in heaven if you do
not believe in that which is on earth, which is in
you yourself?
13. | "For, no man has ever gone up to heaven, but
there is only man on earth, come down from
14. | heaven, and himself of heaven. Now, this same
15. | heavenly son in man it is that must be lifted up,
that everyone may believe in him and not perish,
16. | but may have heavenly life. For God gave His
Son, of the same essence as Himself, not for men's
destruction, but for their happiness. He gave him
in order that everyone might believe in him, and
17. | might not perish, but have life without end. For
He did not bring forth His Son, this life, into the
world of men in order to destroy the world of men;
but He brought forth His Son, this life, in order

that the world of men might be made alive through him.

“Whoever commits his life to him does not die ; but he who does not commit his life to him destroys himself thereby, in that he has not trusted to that which is life. Death consists in this, that life is come into the world, but men themselves go away from life.

Jn. iii. 18.

“Light is the life of men ; light came into the world, but men prefer the darkness to light, and do not go to the light. He who does wrong does not go to the light, so that his deeds may not be seen, and such a one bereaves himself of life. Whereas he who lives in truth goes to the light, so that his deeds are seen ; and he has life, and is united with God.

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“The kingdom of God must be understood, not, as you think, in the sense that it will come for all men at some time or other, and in some place or other, but thus,—In the whole world always, some people, those who trust in the heavenly Son of man, become sons of the kingdom, but others who do not trust in him are destroyed. The Father of that spirit which is in man is the Father of those only who acknowledge themselves to be His sons. And, therefore, only those exist to Him who have kept in themselves that which He gave them.”

And, after this, Jesus began to explain to the people what the kingdom of God is, and he made this clear by means of parables.

Mt. xiii. 3.

He said: The Father,—who is spirit,—sows in the world the life of understanding, as the husbandman

- Mt. xiii. 4. sows seed in his field. He sows over the whole field, without remarking where any particular seed falls. Some seeds fall upon the road, and the birds
5. fly down and peck them up. And others fall among stones; and although among these stones they come up, they wither, because there is no
7. room for the roots. And others, again, fall among wormwood, so that the wormwood chokes the corn, and the ear springs up, but does not fill. And
8. others fall on good soil; they spring up, and make return for the lost corn, and bear ears, and fill, and one ear will give a hundredfold, another sixtyfold, and another thirtyfold. Thus, then, God also sowed broadcast the spirit in men; in some it is lost, but in others it yields a hundredfold: these last are they
- Mk. iv. 26. who form the kingdom of God. Thus the kingdom is not such as you think, that God will come to reign over you. God has only sown the spirit, and the kingdom of God will be in those who preserve it.
27. God does not force men. It is as when the sower casts the seeds in the earth, and himself thinks no
28. more of them; but the seeds of themselves swell, sprout up, put forth leaf, sheath, and ear, and fill
29. with grain. Only when it is ripened, the master sends sickles to reap the cornfield. So also God gave His Son, the spirit, to the world; and the spirit of itself grows in the world, and the sons of the spirit make up the kingdom of God.
- Mt. xiii. 33. A woman puts yeast in the kneading trough and mixes it with the flour; she then stirs it no more, but lets it ferment and rise. As long as men live,

God does not interpose in their life. He gave the spirit to the world, and the spirit itself lives in men, and men who live by the spirit make up the kingdom of God. For the spirit there is neither death nor evil. Death and evil are for the flesh, but not for the spirit.

The kingdom of God comes in this way. A farmer sowed good seed in his field. The farmer is the Spirit, the Father; the field is the world; the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom of God. And the farmer lay down to sleep, and an enemy came and sowed darnel in the field. The enemy is temptation; the darnel is the sons of temptation. And his labourers came to the farmer and said: "Can you have sown bad seed? Much darnel has come up in your field. Send us, we will weed it out." And the farmer said: "You must not do that, for in weeding the darnel you will trample the wheat. Let them grow together. The harvest will come, when I shall bid the reapers take away the darnel and burn it; and the wheat I shall store in the barn."

Now, the harvest is the end of man's life, and the harvesters are the power of heaven. And the darnel shall be burnt, but the wheat shall be cleaned and gathered. Thus also, at life's end, all shall vanish which was a guile of time, and the true life in the spirit shall alone be left. For the Spirit, the Father, there is no evil. The spirit keeps that which it needs, and that which is not of it does not exist for it.

The kingdom of God is like a net. The net will

Mt. xiii. 24.

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Mt. xiii. 48.

be spread in the sea, and will catch all kinds of fish. And afterwards, when it is drawn out, the worthless will be set aside and thrown into the sea. So will it be at the end of the age; the powers of heaven will take the good, and the evil will be cast away.

10. And when he finished speaking, the disciples asked him how to understand these parables?
11. And he said to them: "These parables must be understood in two ways. I speak all these parables because there are some like you, my disciples, who understand wherein is the kingdom of God, who understand that the kingdom of God is within every man, who understand how to go into it; while
14. others do not understand this. Others look, but see not; they hearken, and do not understand,
15. because their heart has become gross. Therefore I speak these parables with two meanings, for both classes of hearers. To the others I speak of God, of what God's kingdom is to them, and they may understand this; while to you I speak of what the kingdom of God is for you—that kingdom which is within you.

18. And see that you understand as you ought the
19. parable of the sower. For you the parable is this: Everyone who has understood the meaning of the kingdom of God, but has not accepted it in his heart, to him temptation comes and robs him of that which has been sown: this is the seed on the
20. wayside. That which was sown on stones, is he
21. who at once accepts with joy. But there is no root in him, and he only accepts for a time; but let

straits and persecution befall him, because of the meaning of the kingdom, and he straightaway denies it. That which was sown among the worm-wood is he who understood the meaning of the kingdom, but worldly cares and the seductions of wealth strangle the meaning in him, and he yields no fruit. But that which was sown on good soil is he who understood the meaning of the kingdom, and accepted it into his heart; such yield fruit, one a hundredfold, another sixtyfold, another thirtyfold. For he who retains, to him much is given; while from him who does not retain, the whole will be taken.

Mt. xiii. 22.

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12.

And, therefore, take care how you understand these parables. Understand them so as not to give way to deceit, wrong, and care; but so as to yield thirtyfold, or sixtyfold, or a hundredfold.

Lk. viii. 18.

The kingdom of heaven grows and spreads in the soul out of nothing, providing everything. It is like a birch seed, the very smallest of seeds, which, when it grows up, becomes greater than all other trees, and the birds of heaven build their nests in it.

Mt. xiii. 31.

CHAPTER IV

GOD S KINGDOM

Therefore the will of the Father is the life and welfare of all men

(“**Thy kingdom come**”)

- Mt. ix. 35. | AND Jesus went among the towns and villages, and
taught all men the happiness of fulfilling the
36. | Father’s will. Jesus was sorry for men, that they
perish without knowing wherein is the true life,
and are driven about and suffer, without knowing
why, like sheep left without a shepherd.
- v. 1. | Once a crowd of people gathered to Jesus, to
hear his teaching; and he went up on a hill and
sat down. His disciples surrounded him.
2. | And Jesus began to teach the people as to what
is the Father’s will. He said:—
- Lk. vi. 20, | Blessed are the poor and homeless, for they are
21. | in the will of the Father. Even if they hunger for
a time, they shall be satisfied; and if they grieve
22. | and weep, they shall be comforted. If people look
down upon them, and thrust them aside and every-
23. | where drive them away, let them be glad at this;
for the people of God have ever been persecuted
thus, and they receive a heavenly reward.

But woe to the rich, for they have already got everything they wish, and will get nothing more. They are now satisfied ; but they shall be hungry. Now they are merry ; but they shall be sad. If all praise them, woe to them, because only deceivers get everybody's praise.

Lk. vi. 24.

Blessed are the poor and homeless, but blessed only then, when they are poor, not merely externally, but in spirit ; as salt is good only when it is true salt ; not externally only, but when it has the savour of salt.

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26.

So, you also, the poor and homeless, are the teachers of the world ; you are blessed, if you know that true happiness is in being homeless and poor. But if you are poor only externally, then you, like salt without savour, are good for nothing. You must be a light to the world ; therefore do not hide your light, but shew it to men. For when one lights a candle, one does not put it under a bench, but upon the table, that it may light all in the room. So, you also, do not hide your light, but shew it by your works, so that men may see that you know the truth, and, looking at your good works, may understand your Heavenly Father.

Mt. v. 13.

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16.

And do not think that I free you from the law. I teach not release from the law, but I teach the fulfilment of the eternal law. As long as there are men under heaven, there is an everlasting law. There will be no law, only when men shall of themselves act wholly according to the eternal law. And now I am giving you the commandments of the eternal law. And if anyone shall release him-

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Mt. v. 20.

self, if only from one of these short commandments, and shall teach others that they may so release themselves, he shall be least in the kingdom of heaven; while he who shall fulfil them, and shall thereby teach others, shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Because if your virtue be not greater than the virtue of the orthodox leaders, you will in no way be in the kingdom of heaven.

These are the commandments :

I.

21. In the former law it was said: "Do not kill." But if anyone shall kill another, he must be judged.

22. But I tell you, that everyone is worthy of judgment who gets angry with his brother. And still more to blame is he who abuses his brother.

23. So that, if you wish to pray to God, remember, first, whether there is no man who may have something against you. If you remember that but one man considers you have offended him, leave your prayer, and go first and make peace with your brother; and then you may pray. Know that God wants neither sacrifice nor prayer, but peace, concord, and love among you. And you may neither pray, nor think of God, if there is but one man to whom you do not bear love.

24. And so this is the first commandment: Do not be angry, do not abuse; but having quarrelled, make peace in such a way that no one may have cause for offence against you.

II.

In the former law it was said: "Do not commit adultery; and if you wish to put away your wife, give her a bill of divorce." Mt. v. 31.

But I tell you, if you are drawn by the beauty of a woman, you are already committing adultery. 23.
 All sensuality destroys the soul, and therefore it is better for you to renounce the pleasure of the flesh than to destroy your life. 29.

And if you put away your wife, then, besides being vicious yourself, you drive her also into vice, and him who shall have to do with her. 32.

And therefore, this is the second commandment: Do not think that love towards woman is good; do not admire the beauty of women, but live with the one to whom you have become united, and do not leave her.

III.

In the former law it was said: "Do not utter the name of the Lord your God in vain, do not call upon your God when lying, and do not dishonour the name of your God. Do not swear by Me in untruth, so as to profane your God." But I tell you that every oath is a profanation of God. Mt. v. 33.
34.

Therefore, swear not at all. Man cannot promise anything, because he is wholly in the power of the Father. A man cannot turn one hair from grey to black; how then shall he swear beforehand, that he will do this and that, and swear by God? 35.
 Every oath is a profanation of God, for, if a man 36.

Mt. v. 37. shall have to fulfil an oath which is against the will of God, it must follow that he has sworn to go against God's will; so that every oath is evil. But when men question you about anything, say: "Yes," if yes,—“No,” if no. Everything added to this is evil.

Therefore, the third commandment is: Swear nothing, to anyone; say “Yes,” when it is yes,—“No,” when it is no; and understand that every oath is evil.

IV.

38. In the former law it was said: “He who destroys life, shall give a life for a life; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, an ox for an ox, a slave for a slave,” and so on.

39. But I tell you: Do not wrestle with evil by evil. Not only do not take by law an ox for an ox, a slave for a slave, a life for a life, but do not resist
40. evil at all. If anyone wishes to take an ox from you by law, give him another; if anyone wishes to get your coat by law, give him your shirt also; if anyone strikes out your tooth on one side, turn to
41. him the other side. If you are made to do one
vi. 30. piece of work, do two. If men wish to take your property, give it to them. If they do not return your money, do not ask for it.

37. And therefore: Do not judge, do not go to law, do not punish, and you yourself shall not be judged, nor punished. Forgive all, and you shall be forgiven, because if you shall judge people, they will judge you also.

You cannot judge, because you, all men, are blind, and do not see the truth. How, with obstructed eyes, will you discern the mote in your brother's eye? You must first clear your own eye. But whose eyes are clear? Can a blind man lead a blind man? Both will fall into the pit. Thus, also, they who judge and punish, like the blind, are leading the blind.

Mt. vii. 1.
3.

Lk. vi. 39.

They who judge and condemn people to violent treatment, wounds, maiming, death, wish to teach people. But what else can come from their teaching, than that the pupil will learn his lesson, and will become quite like the teacher? What, then, will he do, when he has learnt his lesson? The same that the teacher does: violence, murder.

40.

And do not think to find justice in the courts. To seek legal justice, to hand matters over to human courts, is the same as to cast precious pearls before swine; they will trample upon it, and tear you to pieces.

Mt. vii. 6.

And, therefore, the fourth commandment is: However men may wrong you, do not resist evil, do not judge and do not go to law, do not complain and do not punish.

V.

In the former law it was said: "Do good to men of your own nation, and do evil to strangers."

v. 43.

But I tell you, love not only your own countrymen, but people of other nations. Let strangers hate you, let them fall upon you, wrong you; but

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Mt. v. 46. you speak well of them, and do them good. If you
 are only attached to your countrymen, why, all men
 are thus attached to their own countrymen, and
 45. hence wars arise. Behave equally well towards
 men of all nations, and you will be the sons of the
 Father. All men are His children, and therefore all
 are brothers to you.

And, therefore, this is the fifth commandment:
 Behave equally well towards foreigners, as I told
 you to behave among yourselves. Before the
 Father of all men there are neither different nations
 nor different kingdoms: all are brothers, all sons of
 one Father. Make no distinction among people as
 to nations and kingdoms.

And so:—I. Do not be angry, but be at peace
 with all men. II. Do not seek delight in sexual
 gratification. III. Do not swear anything to any-
 one. IV. Do not oppose evil, do not judge and do
 not go to law. V. Do not make any distinction
 among men as to nationality, and love strangers
 like your own people.

vii. 12. All these commandments are contained in this
 one: All that you wish people should do for you,
 do you even so to them.

vi. 1. Fulfil my teaching, not for men's praise. If you
 do it for men, then from men you have your reward.
 But if not for men, then your reward is from the
 2. Heavenly Father. So that, if you do good to men,
 do not boast about it before men. Thus hypocrites
 do, that men may speak well of them. And they
 3. get what they wish. But if you do good to men,
 do it so that no one may see it, so that your left

hand may not know what your right hand is doing. And your Father will see this, and will give you what you need. Mt. vi 4.

And, if you wish to pray, do not pray like the hypocrites. Hypocrites love to pray in churches, in the sight of men. They do this for men's sake, and get in return from men that which they wish. 5.

But, if you wish to pray, go where no one may see you, and pray to your Father, the Spirit, and the Father will see what is in your soul, and will give you that which you wish in the spirit. 6.

When you pray, do not chatter with your tongue like the hypocrites. Your Father knows what you want before you open your lips. 7.

Pray only thus : 8.

Our Father, without beginning and without end, like heaven ! 9.

May Thy being only be holy. 10.

May power be only Thine, so that Thy will be done, without beginning and without end, on earth.

Give me food of life in the present. 11.

Smooth out my former mistakes, and wipe them away ; even as I so do with all the mistakes of my brothers, that I may not fall into temptation, and may be saved from evil. 12.

Because Thine is the power and might, and Thine the judgment. 13.

If you pray, above all, bear no one any malice. For if you do not forgive men their wrong-doing, the Father also will not forgive you yours. Mk. xi 25.

If you fast, and go hungry, do not show it to 26.

Mt. vi 16.

Mt. vi. 17,
18.

men; thus do the hypocrites, that people may see, and speak well of them. And people speak well of them, and they get what they wish. But do not you do so; if you suffer want, go about with a cheerful face, that people may not see. But your Father will see, and will give you what you need.

19. Do not lay up store on earth. On earth, the worm consumes, and rust eats, and thieves steal.
20. But lay up heavenly wealth for yourself. Heavenly wealth the worm does not gnaw, nor rust eat, nor
21. thieves steal. Where your wealth is, there will your heart also be.

22. The light of the body is the eye, and the light of
23. the soul is the heart. If your eye is dim, then all your body will be in darkness. And if the light of your heart is dim, then all your soul will be in
24. darkness. You cannot serve at one time two masters. You will please one, and offend the other. You cannot serve God and the flesh. You will
25. either work for the earthly life or for God. Therefore, do not be anxious for what you shall eat and drink, and wherewith you shall be clothed. Life is more wonderful than food and clothing, and God gave it you.

26. Look at God's creatures, the birds. They do not sow, reap or harvest, but God feeds them. In God's sight, man is not worse than the bird. If God gave man life, He will be able to feed him too.
27. But you yourselves know that, however much you strive, you can do nothing for yourselves. You
28. cannot lengthen your life by an hour. And why should you care about clothing? The flowers of

the field do not work and do not spin, but are dressed as Solomon in all his glory never was. Well then, if God has so adorned the grass, which to-day grows and to-morrow is mown, will he not clothe you ?

Do not trouble and worry yourselves ; do not say that you must think of what you will eat and how you will be clothed. This everyone needs, and God knows this need of yours. And so, do not care about the future. Live in the present day. Take care to be in the will of the Father. Wish for that which alone is important, and the rest will all come of itself. Strive only to be in the will of the Father. And so, do not trouble about the future. When the future comes, then it will be time to do so. There is enough evil in the present.

Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. Is there a father who would give his son a stone instead of bread, or a snake instead of a fish ? Then, how is it that we, wicked men, are able to give our children that which they need, while your Father in heaven shall not give you that which you truly need, if you ask Him ? Ask, and the Heavenly Father will give the life of the spirit to them who ask Him.

The way to life is narrow, but enter by the narrow way. The way into life is one only. It is narrow and strait. About it the plain lies great and wide, but it is the way of destruction. The narrow way alone leads to life ; and few find it. But do not quail, little flock ! The Father has promised you the kingdom.

Mt. vi. 29.

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Lk. xi. 9.

Mt. vii. 9,
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Lk. xii. 32.

Mt. vii. 15. Only, beware of false prophets and teachers ; they approach you in sheepskins, but within they are ravening wolves.

16. By their fruits will you know them ; by that which they yield. Figs are not gathered from thistles,

17. nor grapes from thorns. But a good tree brings forth good fruit. And a bad tree brings forth bad

20. fruit. And so you will know them by the fruits of their teaching. A good man, from his good heart,

Lk. vi. 45. brings forth everything that is good ; but a wicked man, from his evil heart, brings forth everything evil ; for the lips speak from the overflow of the heart. And therefore, if teachers teach you to do to others that which is bad for yourselves,—teach violence, executions, wars,—know that they are false teachers.

Mt. vii. 21. For it is not he that says : Lord, Lord ! who shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who fulfils the word of the Heavenly Father. The false teachers

22. will say : “ Lord, Lord ! we have taught your teaching, and we have driven away evil according to

23. your teaching.” But I will disown them, and say to them : No, I never acknowledged you, and do not acknowledge you. Go out of my sight, you are doing that which is unlawful.

24. And so, everyone who has heard these words of mine, and fulfils them, he, like a reasonable man,

25. builds his house upon a rock. And his house will stand against all storms. But he who hears these

26. words of mine, and does not fulfil them, he, like a foolish man, builds his house upon sand. When

27. the storm comes, it will overthrow the house, and all will perish.

<p>And all the people wondered at such teaching ; because the teaching of Jesus was quite other than that of the orthodox teachers of the law. These taught a law which must be obeyed, but Jesus taught that all men are free. And in Jesus Christ</p>	<p>Lk. iv. 32.</p>
<p>were fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah : " The people living in darkness, in the shadow of death, saw the light of life, and he who furnished this light of truth does no violence nor harm to men, but he is meek and gentle. He, in order to bring truth into the world, neither disputes nor shouts ; his voice is never heard raised. He will not break a straw, and will not blow out the smallest light. And all the hope of men is in his teaching."</p>	<p>Mt. iv. 14. 16.</p>
	<p>xii. 19. 20. 21.</p>

CHAPTER V

THE TRUE LIFE

*The fulfilment of the personal will leads to death; the
fulfilment of the Father's will gives true life*

(“Thy will be done”)

Mt. xi. 25. | AND Jesus rejoiced at the strength of the spirit,
and said:

“I acknowledge the spirit of the Father, the source of everything in heaven and earth, Who has revealed that which was hidden from the wise and learned, to the simple, solely through their acknowledging themselves Sons of the Father.

28. | “All take care for fleshly happiness, and have put themselves to a load which they cannot draw; they have put a yoke upon themselves which was not made for them.

“Understand my teaching and follow it; and you shall know rest and joy in life. I give you another yoke, and another load; namely, the spiritual life.
29. | Put yourselves to that, and you shall learn from me peace and happiness. Be calm and meek in heart, and
30. | you will find blessedness in your life. Because my teaching is a yoke made for you, and the fulfilment of my teaching is a light load, with a yoke made for you.”

The disciples of Jesus once asked him whether he wished to eat. He said: "I have food of which you do not know." They thought that someone had brought him something to eat. But he said:

"My food is to do the will of Him who gave me life, and to fulfil that which He entrusted to me. Do not say, 'There is still time,' as the ploughman said, waiting for the harvest. He who fulfils the will of the Father is always satisfied, and knows neither hunger nor thirst. The fulfilment of the will of God always satisfies, bearing its reward within itself. You must not say, 'I will afterwards fulfil the will of the Father.' While there is life, you always can, and must, fulfil the will of the Father. Our life is the field which God has sown, and our business is to gather its fruits. And if we gather the fruits, we get the reward, life beyond time. True it is, that we do not give ourselves life; someone else does. And if we labour to gather-in life, then we, like reapers, get our reward. I teach you to gather-in this life, which the Father has given you."

Once, Jesus came to Jerusalem. And there was then a bathing-place there. And men said of this bathing-place, that an angel came down into it, and through this the water in the bath would begin to move, and he who first plunged into the water after it was moved, got well from whatever he was ailing. And sheds were made around the bath, and under these sheds sick men lay, waiting for the water in the bath to be moved, in order to plunge into it.

Jn. iv. 31.

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Jn. v. 1,

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Jn. v. 5.

And a man was there who had been infirm thirty-eight years. Jesus asked who he was.

And the man told how he had been ailing so long, and was still waiting to get into the bath first, upon the water being moved, in order to be healed; but for these thirty-eight years he had been unable to get in first, others always getting into the bath before him.

6. And Jesus saw that he was old, and said to him: "Do you wish to get well?"

7. He said: "I wish to, but I have no one to carry me into the water in time. Someone always will get in before me."

8. And Jesus said to him: "Awake, take up your bed and walk."

9. And the sick man took up his bed and walked.

10. And it was the Sabbath. And the orthodox said: "You must not take up the bed, for to-day is the Sabbath." He said: "He who raised me, bade me also take up the bed." And the infirm man said to the orthodox, that it was Jesus who had healed him. And they became angry, and accused Jesus, because he did such things on the Sabbath.

17. And Jesus said: "That which the Father always does, I also do. In truth, I say to you, the Son of himself can do nothing. He does only that which he has understood from the Father. What the Father does, he also does. The Father loves the Son, and by this very fact has taught him everything which the Son should know.

21. "The Father gives life to the dead, and thus the

Son gives life to him who desires it; because, as the business of the Father is life, so the business of the Son must be life. The Father has not condemned men to death, but has given men power, at will, to die or live. And they will live, if they shall honour the Son as the Father.

Jn. v. 22.

23.

“ I tell you truly, that he who has understood the meaning of my teaching, and has believed in the common Father of all men, already has life, and is delivered from death. They who have understood the meaning of human life, have already escaped from death and shall live for ever. Because, as the Father lives of Himself, so also has He given the Son life within himself. And He has given him freedom. It is by this, that he is the Son of Man.

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“ Henceforth all mortals shall be divided into two kinds. They alone, who do good, shall find life; but they who do evil shall be destroyed. And this is not my decision, but it is what I have understood from the Father. And my decision is true, because I thus decide, not in order to do that which I wish, but in order that all may do that which the Father of all wishes.

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“ If I were to assure all that my teaching is true, this would not establish my teaching. But there is that which establishes my teaching; namely, the conduct which I teach. That shews that I do not teach of myself, but in the name of the Father of all men. And my Father, He who has taught me, confirms the truth of my commandments in the souls of all.

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“ But you do not wish to understand and to know His voice. And you do not accept the meaning

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this voice speaks. That that which is in you, is spirit descended from heaven,—this, you do not believe.

Jn. v. 39. “Enter into the meaning of your writings. You will find in them the same as in my teaching, commandments to live, not for yourself alone, but for
40. the good of men. Why, then, do you not wish to believe in my commandments, which are those that
43. give life to all men? I teach you in the name of the common Father of all men, and you do not accept my teaching; but if anyone shall teach you in his own name, him will you believe.

44. “One cannot believe that which people say to each other, but one can only believe that in every man there is a Son like the Father.”

Lk. xix. 11. And that men may not think that the kingdom of heaven is established by anything visible; but that they may understand that the kingdom of God consists in the fulfilment of the Father’s will; and understand that the fulfilment of the Father’s will depends on each man’s effort and striving to make people see that life is given, not for oneself personally, but for the fulfilment of the Father’s will, which alone saves from death and gives life,—Jesus
12. told a parable. He said:

“There was a rich man, who had to go away from
13. his home. Before he went, he called his slaves, and gave among them ten talents, one to each, and said: ‘While I am away, labour each of you upon
14. what I have given.’ But it happened that, when he was gone, certain inhabitants of that town said:
15. ‘We do not wish to serve him any more.’ When

the rich man came back, he called the slaves to whom he had given the money, and bade each say what he had done with his money. The first came, and said: 'See, master, for your one I have earned ten.' And the master said to him: 'Well done, good servant; you have been trustworthy in a little, I will place you over much; be one with me in all my wealth.' Another slave came, and said: 'See, master, for your talent I have earned five.' And the master said to him: 'Well done, good slave, be one with me in all my estate.' And yet another came, and said: 'Here is your talent, I hid it in a cloth and buried it; because I was afraid of you. You are a hard man, you take where you did not store, and gather where you did not sow.' And the master said to him: 'Foolish slave! I will judge you by your own words. You say that, from fear of me, you hid your talent in the earth, and did not work upon it. If you knew that I was severe, and take where I did not give, then why did you not do that which I bade you do? If you had worked upon my talent, the estate would have been added to, and you would have fulfilled that which I bade you. But you have not done that for which the talent was given you, and, therefore, you must not own it.' And the master bade the talent be taken from him who had not worked upon it, and given to him who had worked most. And then the servants said to him: 'Sir, he already has much.' But the master said: 'Give to them who have worked much, because he who looks after that which he has, shall receive an increase. As to them who did not

Lk. xix. 16.

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Mt. xxv. 26,

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Lk. xix. 23.

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Mt. xxv. 30.

wish to be in my power, drive them forth, so that they may be here no more.'”

Now this master is the source of life, the spirit, the Father. His slaves are men. The talents are the life of the spirit. As the master does not himself work upon his estate, but bids the slaves to work, each by himself, so the spirit of life in men has given them the command to work for the life of men, and then left them alone. They who sent to say that they did not acknowledge the authority of the master, are they who do not acknowledge the spirit of life. The return of the master, and the demand for an account, is the destruction of fleshly life, and the decision of the fate of men as to whether they have yet life beyond that which was given them. Some, the slaves who fulfil the will of the master, work upon that which was given them, and make gain on gain; they are those men who, having received life, understand that life is the will of the Father, and is given to serve the life of others. The foolish and wicked slave, who hid his talent and did not work upon it, represents those men who fulfil only their own will, and not the will of the Father; who do not serve the life of others. The slaves who have fulfilled the master's will, and worked for the increase of his estate, become sharers of the whole estate of the master, while the slaves who have not fulfilled the master's will, and have not worked for him, are bereft of that which was given them. People who have fulfilled the will of the Father, and have served life, become sharers in the life of the Father, and receive

life, notwithstanding the destruction of the fleshly life. They who have not fulfilled the will, and have not served life, are bereft of that life which they had, and are destroyed. They who did not wish to acknowledge the authority of the master, such do not exist for the master; he drives them forth. People who do not acknowledge within themselves the life of the spirit, the life of the Son of Man, such do not exist for the Father.

After this, Jesus went into a desert place. And many people followed him. And he climbed a mountain, and sat there with his followers. And he saw that there was a great throng, and said: "Whence shall we get bread to feed all these people?" Philip said: "Even two hundred pence will not suffice, if to each be given but a little. We have only a little bread and fish." And another disciple said: "They have bread; I have seen it. There is a boy who has five loaves and two small fishes." And Jesus said: "Bid them all lie down on the grass."

And Jesus took the loaves which he had, and gave them to his disciples, and bade them give them to others; and so all began to hand from one to another what there was, and all were satisfied, yet much was left over.

The next day, the people came again to Jesus. And he said to them: "See, you come to me, not because you have seen wonders, but because you have eaten bread and were satisfied." And he said to them: "Work not for perishable food, but for everlasting food, such as only the spirit of the Son of Man gives, sealed by God."

Jn. vi. 1,
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Mt. xiv. 17.
Jn. vi. 9.
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- Jn. vi. 28. The Jews said: "But what must we do, in order to do the works of God?"
29. And Jesus said: "The work of God is in this, to believe in that life which He has given you."
30. They said: "Give us a sign that we may believe. What are your deeds which can serve as a proof?"
31. Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness. God gave them bread from heaven to eat; and so it is written."
32. Jesus answered them: "The true heavenly bread is the spirit of the Son of Man, that which the
33. Father gives. Because the nourishment of man is the spirit descended from heaven. This it is which
35. gives life to the world. My teaching gives true nourishment to man. He who follows me shall not hunger, and he who believes in my teaching will never know thirst.
36. "But I have already told you that you have seen this, yet do not believe.
37. "All that life which the Father gave the Son will be realised through my teaching; and everyone
38. who believes will be a sharer in it. I came down from heaven, not to do that which I wish, but to do the will of the Father, of Him who gave me life.
39. But the will of the Father who sent me is this, that I should keep all that life which he gave, and
40. should not destroy anything of it. And therefore, herein is the will of the Father who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in him, should have everlasting life. And my teaching gives life at the last day of the body."
41. The Jews were shocked at his saying that his

teaching was come down from heaven. They said : Jn. vi. 42
 “Why, this is Jesus, the son of Joseph; we know his father and mother. How, then, can he say that his teaching has descended from heaven?”

“Do not debate as to who I am, and whence I am come,” said Jesus. “My teaching is true, not because I declare, like Moses, that God spoke with me on Sinai; but it is true because it is in you also. Everyone who believes my commandments, believes, not because it is I who speak, but because our common Father draws him to Himself; and my teaching will give him life at the last day. And it is written in the prophets, that all shall be taught by God. Everyone who shall understand the Father, and shall learn to understand His will, thereby yields himself to my teaching. 43. 44. 45.

“That any man has seen the Father, this has never been, except he who is from God; he has seen, and sees, the Father. 46.

“He who believes in me (in my teaching) has everlasting life. 47.

“My teaching is the nourishment of life. Your fathers ate manna, food straight from heaven, and yet they died. But the true nourishment of life, which descends from heaven, is such, that he who is fed with it will not die. My teaching is this nourishment of life descended from heaven. He who is fed with it lives for ever. And this nourishment which I teach is my flesh, which I give for the life of all men.” 48, 49. 50. 51.

The Jews did not understand what he said, and began to dispute as to how it was possible to 52.

give one's flesh for the nourishment of men, and why.

Jn. vi. 53. And Jesus said to them: "If you shall not give
up your flesh for the life of the spirit, there will be
54. no life in you. He who does not give up his flesh
55. for the life of the spirit, has not real life. That in
me which gives up the flesh for the spirit, that
alone lives.

56. "And therefore, our flesh is the true food for the
real life. That only which in me consumes my
body, that which gives up the fleshly life for the
57. true life, that only is I. It is in me, and I am in
it. And as I live in the flesh by the will of the
Father, similarly, that which lives in me lives by
my will."

60. And some of his disciples, when they heard this,
said: "These are hard words, and it is difficult to
understand them."

61. And Jesus said to them: "Your ideas are so
confused, that my sayings as to what man was, is,
63. and always will be, seem difficult to you. Man is
the spirit in the flesh, and the spirit alone gives
life, but the flesh does not give life. In the words
which seem so difficult to you, I have really said
nothing more than that the spirit is life."

Lk. x. 1. Afterwards, Jesus chose seventy men out of his
near friends, and sent them into those places where
2. he himself wished to go. He said to them:

"Many people do not know the blessing of real
life. I am sorry for all; and wish to teach all.
But as the master is not enough for the reaping of
3. his field, so also I shall not suffice. Go you, then,

through the various cities, and everywhere proclaim the fulfilment of the will of the Father.

“ Say, The will of the Father is in this : Not to be angered, not to be sensual, not to swear, not to resist evil, and not to make any distinction between people. And accordingly, do ye in everything fulfil these commandments.

“ I send you like sheep among wolves. Be wise as snakes, and pure as doves. Mt. x. 16

“ Before everything, have nothing of your own ; take nothing with you, neither wallet, nor bread, nor money ; only clothes upon your body, and shoes. Further, make no distinction between people ; do not choose your hosts, where you shall put up. Lk. x. 4.

But in whichever house you shall come first, stay there. When you come into the house, greet the master. If he welcome you, stay ; if not, go into another house. 5.

“ For that which you shall say, they will hate you, and fall upon, and persecute you. And when they shall drive you out, go into another village ; and if they all drive you out of that, go yet into another. They will persecute you as wolves hunt sheep ; but do not quail, suffer to the last hour. And they will take you into the courts, and will try you, and will flog you, and will take you before the authorities, that you may justify yourselves before them. And when you shall be taken into the courts, be not afraid ; and do not bethink yourselves what you shall say. The spirit of the Father will speak through you, what is needful to be said. Mt. x. 12.

“ You will not have passed through all the towns, 22.
23.

“ You will not have passed through all the towns, 19.

“ You will not have passed through all the towns, 23.

before people will have understood your teaching, and will turn to it.

Mt. x. 27. "And so, be not afraid. That which is hidden in
26. the souls of men will come forth. That which you
shall say to two or three will spread among
23. thousands. But chiefly, be not afraid of those who
may kill your body. To your souls, they can do
nothing. And so, do not fear them. But be afraid
lest both your bodies and souls be destroyed, by
your abstaining from the fulfilment of the will of
29. the Father. That is what you have to fear. Five
sparrows are sold for a farthing, but even they
30. shall not die without the Father's will. And a hair
shall not fall from the head without the Father's
31. will. So then, what need you be afraid of, seeing
you are in the Father's will?

34. "Not all will believe in my teaching. And they
who will not believe, will hate it; because it
bereaves them of that which they love, and strife
will come of it. My teaching, like fire, will kindle
Lk. xii. 49. the world. And from it strife must arise in the
51. world. Strife will arise in every house. Father
52. against son, mother against daughter; and their
53. kin will become haters of them who understand my
xiv. 26. teaching, and they will be killed. Because, for him
who shall understand my teaching, neither his
father, nor his mother, nor wife, nor children, nor
all his property, will have any weight."

Mk. iii. 22. Then the learned orthodox gathered at Jerusalem,
and went to Jesus. Jesus was in a village, and a
20. crowd of people thronged into the place, and stood
around.

The orthodox began to speak to the people, in order that they might not believe in the teaching of Jesus. They said that Jesus was possessed; that if they should live by his commandments, there would then be yet more evil among the people than now. They said, that he drove out evil with evil. Mt. xii. 24.

Jesus called them to him, and said: "You say that I drive out evil with evil. But no power destroys itself. If it destroys itself, then it would not be. You would drive out evil with threats, executions, murders; but evil, nevertheless, is not destroyed, precisely because evil cannot make head against itself. But I drive out evil by other means than you do; that is to say, not with evil. 25.

"I drive out evil by summoning people to fulfil the will of the Spirit, the Father, who gives life to all. Five commandments express the will of the Spirit which gives happiness and life. And these commandments destroy evil. By their doing so, you have a proof that they are true. 26.

"If men were not sons of one spirit, it would not be possible to overcome evil; as it is not possible to go into the house of a strong man, and rob it. In order to rob the house of a strong man, it is necessary first to bind the strong man. And men are bound thus in the unity of the spirit of life. 27.

"And therefore I tell you, that every mistake of men, and every wrong interpretation, shall escape punishment; but false representation about the Holy Spirit, which gives life to all, shall not be forgiven to men. Should anyone say a word against man, that is not important; but should anyone say 28.

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a word against that which is holy in man, against the spirit, this cannot pass unpunished. Gird at me as much as you like, but do not call evil the commandments of life which I have disclosed to you. It cannot pass unpunished, if a man shall call that good which is evil.

Mt. xii. 30.

“It is necessary to be at one with the spirit of life. He who is not at one with it, is against it. It is necessary to serve the spirit of life and of good in all men, and not in oneself alone. You must either hold that life and happiness is good for the whole world, then love life and happiness for all men, or else hold life and happiness an evil, and then not love life and happiness for yourself. You must either hold a tree good, and its fruit good, or else hold a tree bad, and its fruit bad. Because a tree is valued by its fruit.”

CHAPTER VI

THE FALSE LIFE

*Therefore, in order to receive the true life, man must on earth
resign the false life of the flesh, and live by the spirit*

(“On earth, as in heaven”)

AND there came once to Jesus his mother and brothers, who could in no way get to see him, because there was a great crowd around him. And a man saw them, and went up to Jesus, and said: “Your family, your mother and brothers, are standing without, and wish to see you.”

Lk. viii. 19.
Mt. xii. 46.
47.

And Jesus said: “My mother and my brothers are they who have understood the will of the Father, and fulfil it.”

Lk. viii. 21.

And a woman said: “Blessed is the womb that has brought you forth, and the breasts that you have sucked.”

xi. 27.

Jesus said to this: “Blessed only are they who have understood the spirit of the Father, and keep it.”

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And a man said to Jesus: “I will follow you whithersoever you may go.”

ix. 57.

And Jesus said to him, in answer: “You cannot follow me; I have neither house nor place to live

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in. Wild beasts have their lairs and burrows, but man is everywhere at home, if he lives by the spirit."

Mk. iv. 35. And it happened once that Jesus was, with his followers, sailing in a boat. He said: "Let us
37. pass over to the other side." A storm arose upon
33. the lake, and the boat began to fill, so that it
nearly sank. And Jesus lay in the stern, and slept.
They woke him, and said: "Teacher, is it really
40. all the same to you that we are perishing?" And,
when the storm had fallen, he said: "Why are you
so timid? You do not believe in the life of the
spirit."

Lk. ix. 59. Jesus said to a man: "Follow me."

And the man said: "I have an aged father, let me first bury him, and then I will follow you."

60. And Jesus said to him: "Let the dead bury the
dead, but do you, if you wish to truly live, fulfil
the will of the Father, and make that will known
everywhere."

61. And again, another man said: "I wish to be
your disciple, and will fulfil the will of the Father,
as you command, but let me first settle my family."

62. And Jesus said to him: "If the ploughman looks
behind, he cannot plough. However strong the
reasons you have to look behind, so long as you look
behind, you cannot plough. You must forget every-
thing except the furrow you are driving; then only
can you plough. If you consider as to what will be
the outcome for the life of the body, then you have
not understood the real life, and cannot live by it."

x. 38. After this, it happened once that Jesus went

with his disciples into a village. And a woman named Martha invited him into her house. Martha had a sister named Mary, who sat at the feet of Jesus, and listened to his teaching. But Martha was busy getting ready the meal.

Lk. x. 39.

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And Martha went up to Jesus, and said: "Do you not see that my sister has left me alone to serve? Tell her to help me in the work."

And Jesus said to her in answer: "Martha, Martha! you trouble and busy yourself with many things, but only one thing is needful. And Mary has chosen that one thing which is needful, and which none shall take from her. For true life the food of the spirit alone is needful."

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And Jesus said to all: "Whoever wishes to follow me, let him forsake his own will, and let him be ready for all hardships and sufferings of the flesh at every hour; then only can he follow me. Because he who wishes to take heed for his fleshly life will destroy the true life. And he who fulfils the will of the Father, even if he destroy the fleshly life, shall save the true life. For, what advantage is it to a man if he should gain the whole world, but destroy or harm his own life?"

ix. 23.

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And Jesus said: "Beware of wealth, because your life does not depend upon your having more than others."

xii. 15.

"There was a rich man, who had a great harvest of corn. And he thought to himself: Let me rebuild my barns. I will erect larger ones, and gather there all my wealth. And I will say to my soul: 'There, my soul, you have everything

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Lk. xii. 20. after your desire; rest, eat, drink, and live for your pleasure.' But God said to him: 'Fool, this very night your soul shall be taken; and all that you have stored up shall go to others.'"

21. "And thus it happens with everyone who provides for the bodily life, and does not live in God."

xiii. 2. And Jesus said to them: "Now, you say that Pilate killed the Galileans. But were these Galileans any worse than other people, that this happened to them? In no way. We are all such, and we shall all perish likewise, unless we find salvation from death.

4. "Or of those eighteen men, whom the tower crushed in falling, were they particularly worse than all the other dwellers in Jerusalem? In no wise. If we do not find salvation, sooner or later we shall perish in the same way. If we have not yet perished as they, we must think of our position, thus:

7. "A man had an apple-tree growing in his garden. The master came into the garden, and saw there was no fruit on the tree. And the master said to his gardener: 'It is now three years since I have watched this apple-tree, and it is still barren. It must be cut down, for as it is, it only spoils the place. And the gardener answered: 'Let us wait yet a little, master; let me dig it round. I will dung it, and let us see what it will be next summer. Maybe it will yield fruit. But if it yields nothing by the summer, well then, we will cut it down.'

"Likewise we, as long as we live by the flesh, and yield no fruit to the life of the spirit, are barren

apple-trees. Only by the mercy of some power are we yet left for a summer. And if we do not yield fruit, we shall also perish, even like him who built the barn, like the Galileans, like the eighteen men crushed by the tower, and like all who yield no fruit; perishing, dying for ever, by death.

“In order to understand this, there is no need of special wisdom; each one sees this for himself. For not only in domestic affairs, but in that also which happens in the whole world, are we able to reason and to foresee. If the wind is in the west, we say there will be rain, and so it happens. But if the wind is from the south, we say there will be fair weather, and so it is. How, then, is it that we are able to foresee the weather, and yet we cannot foresee that we shall all die and perish, and that the only salvation for us is in the life of the spirit, in the fulfilment of its will?”

Lk. xii. 54

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And a great multitude went with Jesus, and he once more said to all:

xiv. 25.

“He who wishes to be my disciple, let him count for nothing father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and all his goods, and let him at every hour be ready for anything. And only he who does as I do, only he follows my teaching, and only he is saved from death.

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“Because everyone, before beginning anything, will reckon whether that which he does is profitable, and if it is profitable, will do it, but if unprofitable, will abandon it. Everyone who builds a house will first sit down and reckon how much money is wanted, how much he has, and whether that will

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Lk. xiv. 29. suffice to finish it. He will do this, so that it may not happen that he should begin to build, and not finish, for people to laugh at him.

30. "Likewise also, he who wishes to live the fleshly life must first reckon whether he can finish that with which he is busy.

31. "Every king, if he wishes to make war, will first think whether he can go to war with ten thousand against twenty thousand. If he concludes that he cannot, then he will send ambassadors, and make peace, and will not make war. So also, let every man, before giving himself over to the fleshly life, bethink him whether he can wage war against death, or whether death is stronger than he; and whether it is not then better for him to make peace beforehand.

33. "And so, each of you should first examine what he considers his own family, money, or estate. And, when he has reckoned what all this avails him, and understands that it avails him nothing, then only can he be my disciple."

15. And upon hearing this, a man said: "That is very well, if there be indeed a life of the spirit. But what if one abandons all, and there be no such life?"

To this Jesus said: "Not so; everyone knows the life of the spirit. You all know it; but you do not do that which you know. Not because you doubt, but because you are drawn away from the true life by false cares, and excuse yourselves from it.

16. "This is like your conduct, like your deeds: A

master got ready a dinner, and sent to invite guests, but the guests began to decline. One said: 'I have bought land, and I must go and look after it.' Lk. xiv. 18.
 Another said: 'I have bought oxen, and I must try them.' 19.
 A third said: 'I have taken a wife, and am going to celebrate the wedding.' 20.
 And the messengers came and told the master that no one was coming. 21.
 The master then sent the messengers to invite the beggars. The beggars did not refuse, but came. 22.
 And when they were come, there was still room left. 23.
 And the master sent to call in still more, and said: 'Go and persuade all to come to my dinner, in order that I may have more people.'
 And they who had refused, from want of leisure, found no place at the dinner.

"All know that the fulfilment of the will of the Father gives life, but do not go because the guile of wealth draws them away.

"He who resigns false temporary wealth for the true life in the will of the Father, does as did a certain clever steward. There was a man who was steward to a rich master. This steward saw that, sooner or later, the master would drive him away, and that he would remain without food, and without shelter. And the steward thought to himself: xvi. 1.
 'This is what I will do: I will privately distribute the master's goods to the labourers; I will reduce their debts, and then, if the master drives me out, the labourers will remember my kindness, and will not abandon me.' 3.
 And so the steward did. He 5.
 called the labourers, his master's debtors, and re-wrote their documents. For him who owed a 6.

Lk. xvi. 8.

hundred he wrote fifty; for him who owed sixty, he wrote twenty, and similarly for the rest. And the master learned this, and said to himself: 'Well, he has done wisely; otherwise he would have had to beg his bread. To me he has caused a loss, but his own reckoning was wise.'

9. "For, in the fleshly life, we all understand
10. wherein is the true reckoning, but in the life of
11. the spirit, we do not wish to understand. Thus
12. must we do with unjust, false wealth,—give it
13. up, in order to receive the life of the spirit. And
14. if we regret to give up such trifles as wealth for
15. the life of the spirit, then this life will not be
16. given us. If we do not give up false wealth, then
17. our own true life will not be given us.

12. "It is impossible to serve two masters at one
13. time; to serve God and Wealth, the will of the
14. Father, and one's own will. Either one or the
15. other."

14. And the orthodox heard this. But loving wealth,
15. they jeered at him.

15. And he said to them: "You think that, because
16. men honour you on account of wealth, you are
17. really honourable. It is not so. God does not
18. look at the exterior, but looks at the heart. That
19. which stands high among men, is abomination in
20. the eyes of God. Now the kingdom of heaven is
21. attainable on earth, and great are they who enter
22. it. But there enter it, not the rich, but those who
23. have nothing. And this has always been so, both
24. according to your law, and according to Moses, and
25. according to the prophets also. Listen. How

does it stand with rich and poor in your way of thinking?

“There was a rich man. He dressed well, led an idle and amusing life every day. And there was a vagrant, Lazarus, covered with sores. And Lazarus came to the yard of the rich man, and thought there would be leavings from the rich man’s table, but Lazarus did not get even the leavings, the rich man’s dogs ate up everything, and even licked Lazarus’ sores. And both these died, Lazarus and the rich man. And in Hades, the rich man saw, far off, Abraham; and behold, Lazarus, the beggar, was sitting with him. And the rich man said: ‘Father Abraham, see, Lazarus the beggar is sitting with you. He used to wallow under my fence, I dare not trouble you, but send Lazarus the beggar to me; let him but wet his finger in water, to cool my throat, because I am burning in the fire.’ But Abraham said: ‘But why should I send Lazarus into the fire to you? You, in that other world, had what you wished, but Lazarus only saw grief; so that he ought now to be happy. Yes, and though I should like to help you, I cannot, because between us and you there is a great pit, and it is impossible to cross it. We are living, but you are dead.’ Then the rich man said: ‘Well, Father Abraham, send Lazarus the beggar to my home. I have five brothers; I am sorry for them. Let him tell everything to them, and show how harmful wealth is; so that they may not fall into this torture.’ But Abraham said: ‘As it is, they know the harm. They were

Lk. xvi. 19.

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- Lk. xvi. 30. | told of it by Moses, and by all the prophets.' But the rich man said: 'Still, it would be better if someone should rise from the dead, and go to them; they would the sooner bethink themselves.'
31. | But Abraham said: 'But if they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, then, even if a dead man came to life, they would not listen, even to him.'"
- | "That one should share all with one's brother, and do good to everybody; this all men know. And the whole law of Moses, and all the prophets, said only this: 'You know this truth, but cannot do it, because you love wealth.'"
- Mk. . 17. | And a rich official among the orthodox went up to Jesus, and said to him: "You are a good teacher, what shall I do to receive everlasting life?"
18. | Jesus said: "Why do you call me good? Only the Father is good. But, if you wish to have life fulfil the commandments."
19. | The official said: "There are many commandments; which do you mean?"
- | And Jesus said: "Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not lie, Do not steal. Further, honour your Father, and fulfil His will; and love your neighbour as yourself."
20. | But the orthodox official said: "All these commandments I have fulfilled from my childhood; but I ask, what else must one do, according to your teaching?"
21. | Jesus looked at him, at his rich dress, and smiled, and said: "One small thing you have left undone. You have not fulfilled that which you

say. If you wish to fulfil these commandments: Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not lie, and, above all, the commandment: Love your neighbour as yourself,—then, at once sell all your goods, and give them to the poor. Then you will have fulfilled the Father's will."

Having heard this, the official frowned, and went away, because he was loth to part with his estates.

And Jesus said to his disciples: "As you see, it is in no wise possible to be rich, and to fulfil the Father's will."

The disciples were horrified at these words, so Jesus once more repeated them, and said: "Yes, children, he who has his own property, cannot be in the will of the Father. Sooner may a camel pass through a needle's eye than he who trusts in wealth fulfil the will of the Father." And they were still more horrified, and said: "But, in that case, is it at all possible to keep one's life?"

He said: "To man it seems impossible to support one's life without property; but God, even without property, can support a man's life."

Once, Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. And in this town was the chief of the tax-gatherers, a rich man named Zacchæus. This Zacchæus had heard of the teaching of Jesus, and believed in it. And when he knew that Jesus was in Jericho, he wished to see him. But there were so many people around, that it was impossible to push through to him. Zacchæus was short of stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a tree, in

Mk. x. 22.

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Lk. xviii. 25.

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xix. 1.

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Lk. xix. 5. order to see Jesus as he was going past. And thus, in passing by, Jesus saw him, and having learnt that he believed his teaching, said: "Come down from the tree, and go home; I will come to your house." Zacchæus climbed down, ran home, made ready to meet Jesus, and joyfully welcomed him.

7. The people began to criticise, and to say of Jesus: "See, he has gone into the tax-gatherer's house,—the house of a rogue."

8. Meanwhile, Zacchæus said to Jesus: "See, sir, this is what I will do. I will give away half of my goods to the poor, and out of what is left I will repay fourfold those whom I have wronged."

9. And Jesus said: "Now you have saved yourself. You were dead, and are alive; you were lost, and are found; because you have done as Abraham did, when he wished to slay his son; you have shewn your faith. Therein is the whole business of man's life; to seek out and save in his soul that which is perishing. But such sacrifice as yours must not be measured by its amount."

Mk. xii. 41. It happened once that Jesus and his disciples were sitting opposite a collecting-box. People were placing their contributions in the box, for God's service. Rich people went up to the box, and put in much. And a poor woman, a widow, came and put in two farthings.

43. And Jesus pointed her out, and said: "See, now, this poor widow has put two farthings in the box. She has put in more than all. Because they put in that which they did not need for their own

livelihood, while this woman has put all that she had; she has put in her whole life."

It happened that Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper. And a woman came into the house. And the woman had a vase of precious oil, worth fifteen pounds. Jesus said to his disciples, that his death was near. The woman heard this, and pitied Jesus, and, to show him her love, wished to anoint his head with the oil. And she forgot everything, and broke the vase, and anointed his head and feet, and poured out all the oil.

And the disciples began to discuss among themselves, thinking that she had done wrong. And Judas, he who afterwards betrayed Jesus, said: "See how much good stuff has gone for nothing. This oil might have been sold for fifteen pounds, with which, how many poor might have been helped!" And the disciples began blaming the woman; who was troubled, and did not know whether she had done well or ill.

Then Jesus said: "You are troubling the woman without cause. She has, indeed, done a good work, and you mistakenly think of the poor. If you wish to do good to the poor, do so; they are always with you. But why call them to mind now? If you pity the poor, go with your pity, do them good. But she has pitied me, and done real good, because she has given away all that she had. Who of you can know what is useful, and what is not necessary? How do you know that there was no need to pour the oil over me? She has thus anointed me with oil, and if it were but

Mt. xxvi. 6.

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Mt. xxvi. 13. to get ready my body for burial, this was needful. She truly fulfilled the will of the Father, in forgetting herself and pitying another. She forgot the reckonings of the flesh and gave away all that she had."

xxi. 23. And Jesus said: "My teaching is the fulfilment of the Father's will; and the Father's will can be fulfilled by deeds only; not by mere words. If a man's son, in answer to his father's bidding, keeps saying, 'I obey, I obey,' but does nothing which his father bids, he then does not fulfil the will of his father. But if another son keeps saying, 'I do not wish to obey,' and then goes and does his father's bidding, he indeed fulfils the father's will. 29. And so with men: Not he is in the Father's will who says: 'I am in the Father's will,—but he who does that which the Father wishes.'"

CHAPTER VII

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

*The true food of everlasting life is the fulfilment of the
Father's will*

(“Give us this day our daily bread”)

AFTER this the Jews tried to condemn Jesus to death, and Jesus went away into Galilee, and lived with his relations. Jn. vii. 1.

The Jewish feast of tabernacles was come. And the brothers of Jesus got ready to go to the feast, and invited him to go with them. They did not believe in his teaching, and said to him : 2,
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“ Now, you say that the Jewish service of God is wrong, that you know the real service of God by deeds. If you really think that no one but yourself knows the true service of God, then come with us to the feast. Many people will be there, and you can declare before them all that the teaching of Moses is wrong. If all believe you, then it will be clear to your disciples also, that you are right. Why make a secret of it? You say that our service is wrong, that you know the true service of God; well then, show it to all.” 5.
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And Jesus said : “ For you, there is a special time 4.
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Jn. vii. 7. and place in which to serve God; but for me, there is none. I always and everywhere work for God. This is just what I show to people. I show to them that their service of God is wrong, and therefore do they hate me. Go you to the feast, and I will go when I think fit.”

9. And the brothers went, but he remained behind,
10. and only came up at the middle of the feast. And
11. the Jews were shocked at his not honouring their
12. feast, and delaying to come. And they discussed
his teaching much. Some said that he spoke the truth, while others said that he only disturbed the people.

14. At the middle of the feast, Jesus entered the temple, and began to teach the people that their service of God was wrong; that God should be served not in the temple and by sacrifices, but in the spirit, and by deeds. All listened to him, and wondered that he knew the whole of wisdom without having learnt. And Jesus, having heard that all wondered at his wisdom, said to them:

17. “My teaching is not my own, but His who sent me. If anyone wishes to fulfil the will of the Spirit which sent us into life, he will know that I have not invented this teaching, but that it is of God. Because he who invents from himself, follows his own mere imaginations; but he who seeks the mind of Him who sent him, he is right, and there is no wrong in him.

19. “Your law of Moses is not the Father’s law, and, therefore, they who follow it do not fulfil the
21. Father’s law, but work evil and falsehood. I teach

you the fulfilment of the will of the Father alone, and in my teaching there cannot be contradiction. But your written law of Moses is all full of contradictions. Do not judge by outside appearance, but judge by the spirit.”

And some said: “While he has been called a false prophet, see, he condemns the law, and no one makes a charge against him. Maybe in very deed he is a true prophet; maybe even the authorities have acknowledged him. Only one reason makes it impossible to believe him, namely, that it is said, when he who is sent from God shall come, no one will know whence he is come; but we know this man’s birth, and all his family.”

The people still did not understand his teaching, and still sought proofs.

Then Jesus said to them: “You know me, and whence I am, after the flesh. But you do not know whence I am, after the spirit. You do not know Him, from whom I am according to the spirit; and that is the only needful knowledge. If I had said that I am Christ, you would have believed me, the Man, but you would not have believed the Father who is in me, and in you. But it is necessary to believe the Father only.”

“I am here among you for the short space of my life. I point out to you the way to that source of life, from which I have come forth. And you ask of me proofs, and wish to condemn me. If you do not know the way, then, when I shall be no more, you will in nowise find it. You must not discuss me, but must follow me. Whoever shall

Jn. vii. 22

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Jn. vii. 37. do that which I say, he shall know whether what
38. I say is true. He for whom the fleshly life has
39. not become the food of the spirit, he who follows
not the truth, thirsting for it as for water, can-
not understand me. But he who thirsts for the
truth, let him come to me to drink. And he
who shall believe in my teaching shall receive
the true life. He shall receive the life of the
spirit."

40. And many believed in his teaching, and said :
"That which he says is the truth and is of God."
42. Others did not understand him, and still sought in
prophecies for proofs that he was sent from God.
43. And many disputed with him, but none could
44. controvert him. The learned orthodox sent their
45. assistants to contend with him, but their assistants
returned to the orthodox priests, and said : " We can
do nothing with him."

46. And the high priests said to them : " But why
have you not convicted him ? " And they answered :
" Never did any man speak as he."

47. Then the orthodox said : " It signifies nothing that
it is impossible to controvert him, and that the
48. people believe in his teaching. We do not believe,
49. and none of the authorities believe. But the people
is cursed, they were always stupid and unlearned ;
they believe everyone."

50. And Nicodemus, the man to whom Jesus ex-
51. plained his teaching, said to the high priests : " It is
impossible to condemn a man without having heard
him to the end, without understanding whither he
52. is leading." But they said to him : " It is useless

to discuss, or pay any attention to this affair. We know that a prophet cannot come from Galilee."

At another time, Jesus was speaking with the orthodox, and said to them: "There can be no proofs of the truth of my teaching, as there cannot be of the illumination of light. My teaching is the real light, by which people tell what is good and what is bad, and therefore it is impossible to prove my teaching; which itself proves everything. Whoever shall follow me shall not be in darkness, but shall have life. Life and enlightenment, which are one and the same."

Jn. viii. 12.

But the orthodox said: "You alone say this."

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And he answered them, and said: "And if I alone say this, yet I am right; because I know whence I came, and whither I go. According to my teaching, there is reason in life; whereas, according to yours, there is none. Besides this, not I alone teach, but my Father, the Spirit, teaches the same."

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They said: "Where is your Father?"

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He said: "You do not understand my teaching, and therefore you do not know my Father. You do not know whence you are and whither you go. I lead you, but you, instead of following me, discuss who I am. Therefore you cannot come to that salvation of life to which I lead you. And you will perish, if you remain in this error, and do not follow me."

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And the Jews asked: "Who are you?"

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He said: "From the very beginning, I tell you, I am the Son of Man, acknowledging the Spirit as

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- Jn. viii. 26. my Father. That which I have understood of the
28. Father, the same I tell to the world. And when
you shall exalt in yourselves the Son of Man, then
you shall know what I am; because I do and speak,
not of myself, as a man, but I do and speak that
which the Father has taught me. This I say, this I
teach.
29. "And he who sent me is always with me; and
the Father has not left me, because I do His will.
31. Whoever will keep to my understanding of life,
whoever will fulfil the will of the Father, he will be
truly taught by me. In order to know the truth, it is
necessary to do good to men. He who does evil to
men, loves darkness, and goes into it; he who does
good to men, goes to the light; so that, in order to
understand my teaching, it is necessary to do good
32. deeds. He who shall do good, shall know the
34. truth; he shall be free from evil and death. Be-
cause everyone who errs becomes the slave of his
error.
35. "And as the slave does not always live in the
house of the master, while the son of the master is
always in the house, so also a man, if he errs in his
life and becomes a slave through his errors, does not
live always, but dies. Only he who is in the truth
remains always living. The truth is in this, to be
not a slave, but a son. So that, if you err, you will
36. be slaves and die. But if you are in the truth,
then you shall be free sons, and shall be living.
37. "You say of yourselves that you are sons of
Abraham, that you know the truth. But see, you
wish to kill me, because you do not understand my

teaching. It comes to this, that I speak that which I have understood from my Father, and you wish to do that which you have understood from your father."

Jn. viii. 33

They said: "Our father is Abraham."

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Jesus said to them: "If you were the sons of Abraham you would do his deeds. But see, you wish to kill me because I told you that which I had learnt from God. Abraham did not do in that way; therefore you do not serve God, but serve your father, another one."

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They said to him: "We are not bastards, but we are all children of our Father, all sons of God."

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And Jesus said to them: "If your father were one with me, you would love me, because I came forth from that Father. For I was not born of myself. You are not children of the one Father with me, therefore you do not understand my word; my understanding of life does not find place in you. If I am of the Father, and you of the same Father, then you cannot wish to kill me. But if you wish to kill me, then we are not of one Father."

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I am from the Father of good, from God; but you are from the devil, from the father of evil. You wish to do the lusts of your father the devil, who is always a murderer, and a liar, with no truth in him. If he, the devil, says anything, he says what is of himself, and not common to all, and he is the father of lying. Therefore you are the servants of the devil and his children. Now you see how plainly you are convicted of error. If I err,

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then convict me; but if there is no error in me, then why do you not believe in me?"

Jn. viii. 48.

And the Jews began to revile him, and to say he was possessed.

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He said: "I am not possessed; but I honour the Father, and you wish to kill me; therefore you are not brothers of mine, but children of another father. It is not I that affirm that I am right, but the truth speaks for me. Therefore I repeat to you: he who shall comprehend my teaching and perform it, shall not see death."

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And the Jews said: "Well, do not we speak the truth in saying that you are a Samaritan possessed, and that you convict yourself? The prophets died, Abraham died; but you say that he who performs your teaching shall not see death. Abraham died, and shall you not die? Or are you greater than Abraham?"

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The Jews were still discussing as to whether he, Jesus of Galilee, was an important prophet, or unimportant, and forgot that he had told them, that he said nothing of himself as a man, but spoke of the spirit that was within him.

And Jesus said: "I do not make myself to be anything. If I spoke of myself, of that which only seems to me, then all that I should say would mean nothing. But there is that source of everything which you call God; well, it is of Him that I speak.

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But you have not known, and do not know the true God. But I know Him, and I cannot say that I do not know Him; I should be a liar like you, if I said that I do not know Him. I know Him, and know

His will, and fulfil it. Abraham, your father, saw and rejoiced over my understanding." Jn. viii. 56.

The Jews said: "You are only thirty years old, how were you living at the same time as Abraham?" 57.

He said: "Before Abraham was, there was the understanding of good, there was that which I tell you." 58.

Then the Jews picked up stones in order to kill him, but he went away from them. 59.

Jesus said: "My teaching is the awakening of life. He who believes in my teaching, notwithstanding that he dies in the flesh, remains living, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall not die." xi. 25.

And yet a third time, Jesus taught the people; he said: "Men surrender themselves to my teaching, not because I myself prove it. It is impossible to prove the truth. The truth itself proves all the rest. But men surrender to my teaching, because there is no other than it; it is known to men, and promises life." x. 1.

"My teaching is to men as the shepherd's familiar voice is to the sheep, when he comes among them through the door, and gathers them, to lead them to the pasture. But your teaching, no one believes; because it is foreign to them, and because they see in it your own lusts. It is with men as with sheep, at the sight of a man who does not enter by the door, but climbs over the fence. The sheep do not know him, but feel that he is a robber. My teaching is the only true teaching; like the one door for the sheep. All your teachings of the law of Moses are 2, 3. 5. 7. 8.

- lies, they are all like thieves and robbers to the sheep. He who shall give himself up to my teaching shall find true life; just as the sheep go forth and find food, if they follow the shepherd.
10. "A thief only comes to steal, rob, and destroy, but the shepherd comes to give life. And my teaching alone promises, and gives the true life.
11. 'There are shepherds to whom the sheep are the chief interest in life, and who give up their
12. lives for the sheep. These are true shepherds. And there are hirelings who do not care about the sheep, because they are hirelings, and the sheep are not theirs; so that if a wolf comes they abandon their charge and flee from them, and the wolf devours
13. the sheep. These are false shepherds. And so there are false teachers, such as have no concern with the life of people; while true teachers give up their lives for the life of men.
14. "I am such a teacher. My teaching is this,—
17. to give up one's life for the life of men. No one
18. shall take my life from me, but I myself freely give it up for men, in order to receive true life. The commandment to do this I received from my Father.
15. And as my Father knows me, so I also know Him;
17. and therefore I lay down my life for men. Therefore the Father loves me, because I fulfil His commandments.
16. "And all men, not only those here now, but all men, shall understand my voice; and all shall come together into one, and all men shall be one, and their teaching one."
24. And the Jews surrounded him, and said: "All

that you say is difficult to understand, and does not agree with our writings. Do not torment us, but simply and straightforwardly tell us, whether you are that Messiah who, according to our writings, should come into the world."

And Jesus answered them: "I have already told you who I am, but you do not believe. If you do not believe my word, then believe my works; by them understand who I am, and wherefore I am come. Jn. x. 25.

"But you do not believe me, because you do not follow me. He who follows me, and does that which I say, he understands me. And he who understands my teaching and fulfils it, receives the true life. My Father has united them with me, and no one can disunite us. I and the Father are one." 26.
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And the Jews were offended at this, and took up stones to kill him. 31.

But he said to them: "I have shown you many good works, and have disclosed the teaching of my Father. For which, then, of these good works do you wish to stone me?" 32.

They said: "Not for the good do we wish to stone you; but because you, a man, make yourself God." 33.

And Jesus answered them: "Why, this is just what is written in your writings, where it says that God Himself said to the wicked rulers: 'You are gods.' If He called even vicious men gods, then why do you consider it sacrilege to call that the son of God, which God in His love sent into the world? Every man in the spirit is the son of God. If I do not live in God's way, then do not 34.
35.
36.
37.

Jn. x. 33. | believe that I am a son of God. But if I live
after God's way, then believe from my life that I
am in the Father, and then you will understand
that the Father is in me and I in Him."

20. | And the Jews began to dispute. Some said that
21. | he was possessed, and others said: "A man who is
30. | possessed cannot enlighten men." And they did
not know what to do with him, and could not con-
40. | demn him. And he went again across the Jordan,
41. | and remained there. And many believed in his
teaching, and said that it was true, as the teaching
42. | of John was. Therefore many believed in it.

Mt. xvi. 13. | And Jesus once said to his disciples: "Tell me
how the people understand my teaching about the
son of God and the son of man."

14. | They said: "Some understand it like the teaching
of John, others like the prophecies of Isaiah; others,
again, say that it is like the teaching of Jeremiah.
They understand that you are a prophet."

15. | "And how do you understand my teaching?"

16. | And Simon Peter said to him: "In my opinion,
your teaching consists in this, that you are the
chosen Son of the God of Life. You teach that
God is the life in man."

17. | And Jesus said to him: "Happy are you, Simon,
that you have understood this. No man could dis-
close this to you; but you have understood this,
because God in you has disclosed it to you. Not
fleshly understanding, and not I, my words, have
disclosed this to you; but God my Father has
18. | directly disclosed it. And upon this is founded
that society of men for whom there is no death."

CHAPTER VIII

LIFE IS NOT TEMPORAL

Therefore true life is to be lived in the present

(“**Ἔbis day**”)

JESUS said: “He who is not ready for all fleshly sufferings and bereavements, has not understood me. He who shall obtain all that is best for the fleshly life, shall destroy the true life; he who shall destroy his fleshly life in fulfilling my teaching, shall receive the true life.”

And in answer to these words, Peter said to him: “See, we have listened to you, have thrown off all cares and property, and have followed you. What reward shall we have for this?”

And Jesus said to him: “Everyone who has abandoned home, sisters, brothers, father, mother, wife, children, and his fields, for my teaching, shall receive a hundredfold more than sisters and brothers and fields, and all that is needful in this life; and besides this, he receives life beyond the power of time. There are no rewards in the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of heaven is its own aim and reward. In the kingdom of God all are equal, there is neither first nor last.

Mt. xx. 1. | "Because the kingdom of heaven is like this.
 2. | The master of a house went in the early morning
 3. | to hire labourers for his grounds. He hired labourers
 4. | at a penny a day, and set them to work in the
 5. | garden. And he again went at mid-day and hired
 6. | more, and sent them into the garden to work; and
 7. | at evening he hired still more, and sent them to
 8. | work. And with them all he agreed at a penny.
 9. | The time came for the reckoning. And the master
 10. | ordered all to be paid alike. First, those who came
 11. | last; and afterwards, the first. And the first saw
 12. | that the last received each a penny. And they
 13. | thought that they would receive more; but the
 14. | first were also given each a penny. They took it
 15. | and said: 'But how is this? They only worked
 16. | one shift, and we all four; why, then, do we receive
 17. | alike? This is unjust.' But the master came up,
 18. | and said: 'What are you complaining about? Have
 19. | I offended you? The amount I hired you for, I
 20. | have given you. Our agreement was for a penny,
 21. | take it and go. If I wish to give to the last the
 22. | same as to you, am I not master of my own will?
 23. | Or because you see that I am good, is that the
 24. | cause of your grudging?'"

16. | In the kingdom of God there is neither first nor
 17. | last, for all there are as one.

Mk. a. 35. | 20. | There came to Jesus two of his disciples, James
 and John, and said: "Promise us that you will do
 that for us which we shall ask of you."

Mt. xx. 21. | He said: "What do you wish?"
 They said: "That we may be equal with you."
 22. | Jesus said to them: "You yourselves do not

know what you ask. You may live just as I do, and be cleansed from fleshly life like me, but to make you like myself is not in my power. Every man may, by his own effort, enter the kingdom of his Father, having submitted to His power, and fulfilling His will."

Mt. xx. 23.

When they heard of this, the other disciples grew angry with the two brothers, because these wished to be equal to their teacher, and the first among his disciples.

24.

But Jesus called them, and said: "If you brothers, James and John, asked me to make you such as I am in order to be first among my disciples, then you were mistaken; but if you, my other disciples, are angry with them because they wish to be your elders, then you also are mistaken. Only in the world are kings and officials reckoned by seniority for governing the people. But among you, there cannot be either elder or younger. Among you, for one to be greater than another, it is necessary to be the servant of all. Among you, let him who wishes to be first, consider himself last. Because therein is the will of the Father as to the Son of Man; who does not live to be served, but to himself serve all, and to give up his fleshly life as a ransom for the life of the spirit."

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And Jesus said to the people: "The Father seeks to save that which perishes. He rejoices over it, as a shepherd rejoices when he has found one sheep that was lost. When one is lost, he leaves the ninety-nine, and goes to save the lost one. And if a woman lose a farthing, she will

xviii. 11.

12.

Lk. xv. 8.

- sweep out the whole hut and seek until she find it.
- Lk. xv. 10. The Father loves the Son, and calls him to Himself."
- xiv. 8. And he told them yet another parable, to the effect that they who live in the will of God ought not to exalt themselves. He said: "If you are invited to dinner, do not seat yourself in the front corner; someone will come of more consideration
9. than yourself, and the master will say: 'Leave your place, and allow him who is better than you to be seated.' Then you will be put to shame. But do
10. better, take your seat in the very last place, then the master will find you, and call you to a place of honour, and you will be honoured.
11. "So also in the kingdom of God there is no room for pride. He who exalts himself, by so doing lowers himself; but he who humbles himself, and considers himself unworthy, by this same means raises himself in the kingdom of God.
- xv. 11. "A man had two sons. And the younger said
12. to his father: 'Father, give me my property.' And
13. the father gave him his share. The younger son took his share, went abroad, squandered all his
15. property, and began to suffer want. And abroad,
16. he became a swineherd. And he so hungered, that
17. he ate acorns with the swine. And he bethought himself of his life, and said: 'Why did I take my share and leave my father? My father had plenty of everything; at my father's, even labourers ate their fill. But I here am eating the same food as
18. the swine. I will go to my father, fall at his feet, and say: I am to blame, father, before you, and am

not worthy to be your son. Take me back even as a labourer.' So he thought, and he went to his father. And when he was still far off, his father at once recognised him, and himself ran to meet him, embraced him, and began to kiss him. And the son said: 'Father, I am to blame before you, I am not worthy to be your son.' But the father would not even listen, and said to the labourers: 'Bring quickly the best clothes and the best boots, to clothe him and shoe him. And go and bring a fatted calf and kill it, and we will rejoice that this my son was dead and is now alive, was lost and is now found.' And the elder brother came from the field, and as he approached he heard the sounds of music in the house. He called a servant to him, and said: 'Why is there this merry-making here?' And the boy said: 'Have you not heard that your brother is returned, and your father is full of joy, and has ordered a fatted calf to be killed, for joy that his son has returned?' The elder brother was offended, and did not go into the house. And the father came out and called him. And he said to his father: 'See, father, how many years I have worked for you, and have not disobeyed your command, while you never killed a fatted calf for me. But my younger brother left the house and squandered all his property with drunkards, and you have now killed the calf for him.' And the father said: 'You are always with me, and all mine is yours; and you should not be offended, but should be glad that your brother was dead and has become alive, was lost and is found.'

Lk. xv. 20.

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Mk. xii. 1.

“A master planted a garden, cultivated it, arranged it, did everything so that the garden might yield as much fruit as possible. And he sent labourers into the garden, that they might work there, and gather the fruit, and pay him according to the agreement for the garden. (The master is the Father; the garden; the world; the labourers, men. The Father does no more than send His Son, the Son of Man, into the world, that men may yield fruit to the Father from the understanding of life which He placed in them.)

2. The time came when the master sent a servant for the rents. (The Father, without ceasing, tells men
3. that they must fulfil His will.) The labourers drove away the messenger of the master with nothing, and continued to live, imagining that the garden was their own, and that they, themselves of their own will, were settled on it. (Men drive away from themselves the declaration of the will of the Father, and continue to live, each one for himself, imagining that
4. they live for the joys of the fleshly life.) Then the
6. master sent one after another his chosen ones, then
7. his son, to remind the labourers of their debt. But the labourers quite lost their reason, and imagined that if they killed this son of the master, who reminded them that the garden was not theirs, they
8. would be left quite in peace. So they killed him.

“Thus men do not love even a reminder of the spirit which lives in them, and declares to them that it is eternal and they are not eternal; and they have killed, as far as they could, the consciousness of the spirit; they have wrapped in a cloth and buried in the ground the talent that was given them.

“What, then, is the master to do? Nothing else than drive forth those labourers, and send others. Mt. xxi. 40,
41.

“What is the Father to do? Sow until there shall be fruit. And this He does.

“People have not understood and do not understand that the consciousness of the spirit which is in them, and which they hide because it troubles them, brings life to them through understanding it. They reject that stone upon which everything rests. And they who do not take as foundation the life of the spirit, do not enter into the kingdom of heaven, and do not receive life. In order to have faith, and to receive life, it is necessary to understand one’s position, and not to expect rewards.” 42.
43.

Then the disciples said to Jesus: “Increase in us our faith. Tell us that which will make us more strongly believe in the life of the spirit, that we may not regret the life of the flesh, which must be given up wholly for the life of the spirit. For reward, you yourself say there is none.” Lk. xvii. 5.

And in answer to this, Jesus said to them: “If you had such a faith as the faith that from a birch seed there springs up a great tree; if, also, you believed that in you there is the germ, the only germ, of the spirit whence springs up the true life, you would not ask me to increase in you your faith. 6.

“Faith does not consist in believing something wonderful, but faith consists in understanding one’s position, and wherein lies salvation. If you understand your position, you will not expect rewards, but will believe in that which is entrusted to you.

“When the master returns with the labourers 7.

Lk. xvii. 8. from the field, he does not seat the labourer at his table. But he bids him see to the cattle, and prepare his supper, and after this only says to the labourer: 'Sit down, drink and eat.' The master will not thank the labourer for having done what he ought to do. And the labourer, if he understands that he is a labourer, is not offended, but works, believing that he will receive his due.

10. "And so you, also, must fulfil the will of the Father, and think that we are worthless labourers, having only done what we ought to do, and not expect a reward, but be content with receiving that which is due to you.

"There is no need to take care to believe that there will be a reward, and life; this cannot be otherwise; but there is need to take care not to destroy this life, not to forget that it is given us that we may bring forth its fruits, and fulfil the will of the Father.

xii. 35,
36. "And therefore always be ready, like servants awaiting a master, to answer him immediately when he comes. The servants do not know when he will return, either early or late, and they must always be ready. And when they meet the master, they have fulfilled his will, and it is well for them.

37,
38. "So in life also. Always, every minute of the present, you must live the life of the spirit, not thinking of the past or the future, and not saying to yourself: then or there I will do this or that.

39. "If the master knew when the thief would come, he would not sleep; and so do you also never

sleep; because, to the life of the son of man time is nothing; he lives only in the present, and does not know when is the beginning or end of life.

“Our life is the same as that of a slave whom the master has left as chief in his household. And well it is for that slave if he does the will of the master always! But if he shall say, ‘The master will not soon return,’ and shall forget the master’s business, then the master will return unexpectedly, and will drive him out.

Mt. xxiv. 45,
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“And so, be not downcast, but always live in the present by the spirit. For the life of the spirit there is no time.

Mt. xiii. 33.

“Look to yourselves, so as not to weigh yourselves down, and not to blind yourselves with drunkenness, gluttony, and cares; so as not to let the time of salvation pass. The time of salvation, like a web, is cast over all; it is there always. And therefore always live the life of the Son of Man.

Lk. xxi. 34

“The kingdom of heaven is like this. Ten maidens went with lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five were wise and five foolish. The foolish ones took lamps but did not take oil; but the wise took lamps and a store of oil. While they waited for the bridegroom, they went to sleep. When the bridegroom was approaching, the foolish maidens saw that they had little oil, and went to buy some; and while they were gone, the bridegroom came. And the wise maidens who had oil went in with him, and the doors were shut. Their business was only this,

Mt. xxv. 1.

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to meet the bridegroom with lights; and the five foolish ones forgot that it was important, not only that the lights should burn, but that they should burn in time. And in order that they might be burning when the bridegroom came, they must burn without stopping.

“Life is only for this, to exalt the Son of Man, and the Son of Man exists always. He is not in time; and therefore, in serving him, one must live without time, in the present alone.

Lk. xiii. 24.

25.

“Therefore make efforts in the present to enter into the life of the spirit. If you do not make these efforts you shall not enter. You will say: ‘We said so and so.’ But there will be no good works to show, and there will not be life. Because the Son of Man, the one true spirit of life, will appear in each man, as such man has acted for the Son of Man.

Mt. xvi. 27.

Mt. xxv. 32.

“Mankind is divided according to the way in which men serve the Son of Man. And by their works men shall be divided into two classes, as sheep are divided from goats in the flock. The one shall live, the other perish.

34.

“They who have served the Son of Man, they shall receive that which belonged to them from the beginning of the world, that life which they have kept. They have kept life by the fact that they have served the Son of Man. They have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, visited the prisoner. They have lived in the Son of Man, felt that he only is in all men, and therefore they have loved their neighbours.

“Whereas they who have not lived in the Son of Man, they have not served him, have not understood that he alone is in all, and therefore have not joined in him and have lost life in him, and have perished.”

CHAPTER IX

TEMPTATIONS

*The illusions of temporal life conceal from men
the true life in the present*

(“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”)

- Mt. xix. 13. ONCE, children were brought to Jesus. His disciples
14. began to drive the children away. Jesus saw this
being done, and was grieved, and said :
“ You drive the children away without reason.
They are better than any, because children all live
after the Father’s will. They are, indeed, already
Lk. xviii. 17. in the kingdom of heaven. You should not drive
them away, but learn from them ; because, in order
to live in the Father’s will, you must live as
children live. Children do not abuse one another,
do not bear ill-will to people, do not commit
adultery, do not swear by anything, do not resist
evil, do not go to law with anyone, acknowledge no
difference between their own people and foreigners.
Therefore are they better than grown people, and
Mt. xviii. 3. are in the kingdom of heaven. If you do not re-
frain from all the temptations of the flesh, and
become as children, you will not be in the kingdom
of heaven.

“Only he who understands that children are better than we, because they do not break the Father’s will, only he understands my teaching. And he who understands my teaching, he alone understands the Father’s will. We cannot despise children, because they are better than we, and their hearts are pure in the sight of the Father, and are always with Him.

Mt. xviii. 5.

“And not one child perishes by the Father’s will. They perish only as men entice them from the truth. And therefore it behoves us to take care of them, and not to entice them from the Father, and from true life.

Lk. ix. 48.

Mt. xviii. 10.

14.

6.

“That man does ill who entices them from purity. To entice a child from good, to lead it into temptation, is as bad as to hang a millstone on its neck and throw it into the water. It is hard for it to swim to the surface; it is more likely to drown. It is as hard for a child to get out of temptation into which a grown-up man leads it.

“The world of men is unhappy only on account of temptations. Temptations are everywhere in the world, they always were and always will be; and man perishes from temptations.

7.

“Therefore give up everything, sacrifice everything, if only you may not fall into temptation. A fox, if it fall into a trap, will wrench off its paw and go away, and the paw will heal and it will remain alive. Do you likewise. Give up everything, if only not to sink into temptation.

8.

“Beware of temptation under that first commandment; do not bear ill-will against men, when

Lk. xvii. 3.

people offend you, and you would wish to be avenged on them.

- Mt. xviii. 15. "If a man offend you, remember that he is the son of the same Father, and your brother. If he has offended you, go and persuade him of it face to face. If he listen to you, then you have the advantage, you will have found a new brother. If he do not listen to you, then call to your aid two or three others who may persuade him. And if he repent, forgive him. And if he offend you seven times, and seven times says, 'Forgive me,' then
- Lk. xvii. 4. forgive him. But if he does not listen, then tell the society of believers in my teaching, and if he listens not to them, then forgive him, and have nothing to do with him.
- Mt. xviii. 17.

23. "Because the kingdom of God is like this. A
24. king began to settle with his tenants. And there was a man brought to him who owed him a million,
25. and had nothing to pay him with. Then the king commanded to sell the man's estate, his wife, his
26. children, and the man himself. But the tenant
27. began to beg mercy of the king. And the king was gracious to him, and pardoned all his debt.
28. And now, this same tenant went home, and saw a
29. peasant. This peasant owed him fifty shillings. The king's tenant seized him, began to strangle
30. him, and said: 'Give me what you owe me.' And the peasant fell at his feet, and said: 'Have patience
31. with me, I will pay you all.' But the tenant showed him no mercy, and put the peasant into prison, to stay there until he paid everything. Other peasants saw this, and went to the king,

- and told what the tenant had done. Then the king called the tenant, and said to him: 'Wicked creature, I pardoned you all your debt, because you prayed me. And you, also, should have shown mercy to your debtor, because I showed mercy to you.' And the king became angry, and gave the tenant to be made to suffer, until he should pay all his rent. Mt. xviii. 32.
- "Just so, the Father will do with you, if you do not forgive, from the bottom of your heart, all those who are to blame in your sight. 33.
- "You know that if a quarrel arise with a man, it is better to make it up with him without going to the court. You know this, and you act so because you know, should it go to the court, you will lose more. Now, it is the same with all malice. If you know that malice is a bad thing, and removes you from the Father, then get clear of malice as soon as possible, and make your peace. 34.
- "You yourselves know that as you become bound on earth, so you will be before the Father. And as you free yourselves on earth, so you will be also free before the Father. Understand that if two or three on earth are united in my teaching, everything they may desire they already have from my Father. Because where two or three are joined in the name of the spirit in man, the spirit of man is living in them. 35.
- "Beware also of temptation under the second commandment; the temptation for men to change their wives." v. 25.
- There once came to Jesus orthodox teachers, who, trying him, said: "May a man leave his wife?" xviii. 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- Mk. x. 2.
- Mt. xix. 3.

Mt. xix. 4. He said to them: "From the very beginning
 5. man was created male and female. This was the
 will of the Father. And therefore a man leaves
 6. father and mother and cleaves to his wife. And
 husband and wife unite in one body So that the
 wife is the same for a man as his own flesh.
 Therefore man must not break the natural law of
 8. God, and separate that which is united. According
 to your law of Moses, it is said that you may
 abandon a wife and take another; but this is
 untrue. According to the Father's will, this is
 9. not so, and I tell you that he who casts off his
 wife drives into immorality both her and him who
 shall have to do with her. And casting off his
 wife, a man breeds immorality in the world."

10. And the disciples said to Jesus: "It is too hard
 to be tied for life, whatever happens, to one wife.
 If that must be, it were better not to marry."

11. He said to them: "You may refrain from
 marriage, but you must understand what you are
 12. about. If anyone wishes to live without wife, let
 him be quite pure, and not approach women; but
 he who loves women, let him unite with one
 wife and not cast her off, and not gaze upon
 others.

"Beware of temptation against the third com-
 mandment; the temptation to force people to fulfil
 obligations and to take oaths."

xvii. 24. Once, tax-gatherers came to Peter, and asked
 him: "How about your teacher, does he pay
 25. taxes?" Peter said: "No, he does not."¹ And

¹ See Note, p. 222.

he went and told Jesus that he had been stopped, and told that all were bound to pay taxes.

Then Jesus said to him: "The king does not take taxes of his sons; and moreover, men are not bound to pay anyone but the king. Is this not so? Well, so it is with us. If we are sons of God, then we are bound to no one but God, and free from all obligations. And if they demand taxes of you, then pay. But do so, not because it is your duty, but because you may not resist evil. Otherwise resistance to evil will cause a greater evil."

Mt. xvii. 27.

Another time, the orthodox joined with Cæsar's officials, and went to Jesus, to entrap him in his words. They said to him: "You teach everyone according to the truth. Tell us, are we bound to pay taxes to Cæsar or not?" Jesus understood that they wished to convict him of not acknowledging duty to Cæsar. And he said to them: "Show me that with which you pay taxes to Cæsar." They handed him a coin. He looked at the coin, and said: "What is this here? Whose effigy and whose signature are these?" They said: "Cæsar's." And he said: "Well then, pay Cæsar that which is Cæsar's, but that which is God's, your soul, give to no one but to God." Money, goods, your labour, give everything to him who shall ask it of you. But your soul, give to none but God.

xxii. 16.

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"Your orthodox teachers go about everywhere, and compel people to swear and vow that they will fulfil the law. But by this they only pervert

xxiii. 15.

Mt. xxiii. 16-22.

people, and make them worse than before. It is impossible to promise with one's body for one's soul. In your soul, God is; therefore people cannot promise for God to men.

"Beware. Temptation under the fourth commandment is the temptation for men to judge and execute people, and call upon others to take part in these judgments and executions."

Lk. ix. 52.

The disciples of Jesus once went into a village, and asked for a night's lodging; but they were not admitted. Then the disciples went to Jesus to complain, and said: "Let these people be struck with lightning." Jesus said: "You still do not understand of what spirit you are. I am teaching, not how to destroy but how to save people."

xii. 13.

Once a man came to Jesus, and said: "Bid my brother give me my inheritance." Jesus said to him: "No one has made me judge over you, and I judge no one. And neither may you judge any one."

Jn. viii. 3.

The orthodox once brought a woman to Jesus, and said: "See, this woman was taken in adultery. Now, by the law she should be stoned to death. What do you say?"

Jesus answered nothing, and waited for them to bethink themselves. But they pressed him, and asked what he would adjudge to this woman. Then he said: "He among you who is without fault, let him be the first to cast a stone at her." He said nothing more.

Then the orthodox looked within themselves, and their consciences smote them; and they who were

in front sought to get behind the others, and all went away. And Jesus remained alone with the woman. He looked round, and saw that there was none else. "Well," said he to the woman, "has no one condemned you?" She said: "No one." Then he said: "And I do not condemn you. Go, and henceforth sin no more."

Jn. viii. 10.

11.

Beware. Temptation against the fifth commandment is the temptation for men to consider themselves bound to do good only to their countrymen, and to consider foreigners as enemies.

A teacher of the law wished to try Jesus, and said: "What am I to do in order to receive the true life?" Jesus said: "You know,—love your Father, God, and him who is your brother through your Father, God; of whatever country he may be." And the teacher of the law said: "This would be well, if there were not different nations; but as it is, how am I to love the enemies of my own people?"

Lk. x. 25.

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And Jesus said: "There was a Jew who fell into misfortune. He was beaten, robbed, and abandoned on the road. A Jewish priest went by, glanced at the wounded man, and went on. A Jewish Levite passed, looked at the wounded man, and also went by. But there came a man of a foreign, hostile nation, a Samaritan. This Samaritan saw the Jew, and did not think of the fact that Jews have no esteem for the Samaritans, but pitied the poor Jew. He washed and bound his wounds, and carried him on his ass to an inn, paid money for him to the innkeeper, and promised to come

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again to pay for him. Thus shall you also behave towards foreign nations, towards those who hold you of no account and ruin you. Then you will receive true life."

Mt. xvi. 21. Jesus said: "The world loves its own, and hates God's people. Therefore men of the world—priests, preachers, officials—will harass those who shall fulfil the will of the Father. And I am going to Jerusalem, and shall be persecuted and killed. But my spirit cannot be killed, but will remain alive."

Mt. viii. 32. Having heard that Jesus would be tortured and killed in Jerusalem, Peter was sad, and took Jesus by the hand, and said to him: "If so, then you had better not go to Jerusalem." Then Jesus said to Peter: "Do not say this. What you say is temptation. If you fear tortures and death for me, this means that you are not thinking of that which is godly, of the spirit, but are thinking of what is worldly."

33. And having called the people and his disciples, Jesus said: "He who wishes to live according to my teaching, let him forsake his fleshly life, and let him be ready for all fleshly suffering; because he who fears for his fleshly life, shall destroy the true life; he who despises the fleshly life, shall save the true life."

Mt. xxii. 23. And they did not understand this, and certain materialists coming, he explained to all what is the meaning of the true life and the awakening from death.

The materialists said that after the fleshly death

there is no longer any life. They asked: "How can all rise from the dead? If all were to rise, then in rising they could in no way have life together. For instance, there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died. The wife was taken by the second brother and he died, and she was taken by the third, who also died, and so on unto the seventh. Well now, how shall these seven brothers live with one wife if all arise from the dead?"

Jesus said to them: "You either purposely confuse things, or you do not understand what the awakening to life is. Men in this present life marry. But they who shall earn everlasting life, and the awakening from death, do not marry. And that because they can no longer die, but are united with the Father. In your writings, it is said that God said: 'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' And this was said when Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died from among men. It follows, that they who have died from among men are alive to God. If God is, and God does not die, then they who are with God are always alive. The awakening from death is, to live in the will of the Father. For the Father, there is no time; therefore in fulfilling the will of the Father, in joining Him, man departs from time and death."

When they heard this, the orthodox no longer knew what to devise to compel Jesus to hold his tongue; and together they began to question Jesus. And one of the orthodox said: "Teacher, what, in

Mt. xxii. 24.

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Lk. xx. 34.

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Mt. xxii. 31.

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your opinion, is the chief commandment in the whole law?"

Mt. xxii. 37. The orthodox thought that Jesus would get confused in the answer about the law. But Jesus said: "It is, to love the Lord with all one's soul, in whose power we are. From it the second commandment follows, which is, to love one's
30. neighbour. Because the same Lord is in him.
40. And this is the substance of all that is written in all your books."

42. And Jesus said further: "In your opinion, what is Christ? Is he someone's son?" They said: "In our opinion, Christ is the son of David."
43. Then he said to them: "How, then, does David call Christ his Lord? Christ is neither son of David, nor anyone's son after the flesh; but Christ is that same Lord, our Ruler, whom we know in ourselves as our life. Christ is that understanding which is in us."

Lk. xii. 1. And Jesus said: "See, beware of the leaven of orthodox teachers. And beware of the leaven of the materialists and of the leaven of the govern-
5. ment. But most of all, beware of the leaven of the self-styled 'orthodox,' because in them is the chief stumbling-block."

xx. 45. And when the people understood of what he was
46. speaking, he repeated: "Most of all, beware of the teaching of the scholars, of the self-called 'orthodox.' Beware of them, because they have

Mt. xxiii. 2. taken the place of the prophets who declared the will of God to the people. They have perversely assumed authority to preach to the people the will

of God. They preach words, and do nothing. And the result is that they no more than say: 'Do this and that.'	Mt. xxiii. 3.
And there is no further result, because they do nothing good, but only talk. And they tell people to do what is impossible to be done, and they themselves do nothing. They only labour to keep the teaching in their own hands; and with this aim they strive to appear imposing; they dress themselves up and exalt themselves. Know, therefore, that no one should call himself teacher and leader. But the self-styled orthodox are called teachers, and by this very thing they hinder you from entering into the kingdom of heaven, where they themselves do not enter. These orthodox think that people may be brought to God by exterior rites and pledges. Like blind men, they do not see that the outside show means nothing; that all depends upon the soul of man. They do the easiest thing, the external thing; that which is needful and difficult,—love, compassion, truth,—they leave undone. It suffices them to be only outwardly in the law, and to bring others outwardly to the law. And therefore they, like painted coffins, outwardly look clean, but are an abomination within. They outwardly honour the holy martyrs. But in very deed they are the same as those who torture and kill the saints. They were before, and are now, the enemies of all good. From them comes all the evil in the world; because they hide the good, and instead of it uphold evil. Most of all to be feared, therefore, are self-called teachers. Because you yourselves	4. 5. 8. 13. 15. 16. 23. 23. 27. 30. 31.
	Mk. iii. 28.

Mk. iii. 29. know, every mistake may be made good. But if people are mistaken as to what good is, this mistake can never be set right. And this is precisely the condition of self-called leaders."

Mt. xxiii. 37. And Jesus said: "I wished, here in Jerusalem, to join all men in one understanding of true happiness; but the people here are only capable of putting to death the teachers of good. And therefore they will remain the same godless people as they were, and will not know the true God; 38. until they shall lovingly welcome the understanding of God." And Jesus went away from the temple. 39.

xxiv. 1. Then his disciples said to him: "But what will happen to this temple of God, with all its embellishments which people have brought into it, to 2. give to God." And Jesus said: "I tell you truly, the whole of this temple, with all its embellishments, shall be destroyed, and nothing shall remain of it. There is one temple of God; that is, the hearts of men when they love each other."

3. And they asked him: "When shall there be 4. such a temple?" And Jesus said to them: "That will not be soon. People will yet long be deceived in the name of my teaching, and wars and rebellions 12. will be the result. And there will be great law- 14. lessness, and little love. But when the true teaching shall spread among all men, then will be the end of evil and temptations."

CHAPTER X

THE WARFARE WITH TEMPTATION

Therefore, not to fall by temptation, we must, at every moment of life, be at one with the Father

(“Lead us not into temptation”)

AFTER this, the orthodox chief priests began to do all they could to lay traps for Jesus, in some way or other to destroy him. They gathered in council, and began to consider. They said: “This man must somehow or other be put an end to. He so proves his teaching that, if he be left alone, all will believe in him, and cast off our belief. Already half of the people believe in him. But if the Jews believe in his teaching, that all men are sons of one Father, and brothers, and that there is nothing in our Hebrew people different from other peoples, then the Romans will completely overwhelm us, and the Hebrew kingdom will be no more.”

And the orthodox high priest and learned men for long counselled together, and could not think what to do with Jesus. They could not make up their minds to kill him.

Then one of them, Caiaphas, the chief priest of that year, thought of the following device. He

Lk. xi. 53.

Jn. xi. 47.

48.

Lk. xix. 47.

48.

Jn. xi. 49.

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said to the others: "You must remember this: it is expedient to kill one man, that the whole people may not perish. If we leave this man alone, the people will perish; this I declare to you. Therefore it is better to kill Jesus. Even if the people do not perish, they will nevertheless go astray, departing from the one belief, if we do not kill Jesus. Therefore it is better to kill Jesus."

Jn. xi. 52.

53. And when Caiaphas said this, they resolved that there was no need to discuss, but that Jesus must be killed without fail.

54. They would have taken Jesus at once and killed him, but he withdrew from them into the desert.

55. But at this time the feast of the Passover was approaching, when a great multitude always gathered

56. in Jerusalem. And the orthodox high priests reckoned upon Jesus coming with the people to the

57. feast. And they made known to the people that if anyone should see Jesus he should bring him to them.

xii. 1.
xi. 7.

And it so happened that, six days before the Passover, Jesus said to his disciples: "Let us go to Jerusalem." And he went with them.

8. And the disciples said to him: "Do not go into Jerusalem. The high priests have resolved now to stone you to death. If you come they will kill you."

9. Jesus said to them: "I can fear nothing, because I live in the light of understanding. And as every man, that he may not stumble, walks by day and not by night, so every man, that he may doubt nothing and fear nothing, must live by this under-

standing. Only he doubts and fears who lives by the flesh; but he who lives by understanding, for him there is nothing doubtful or fearful." Jn. xi. 10.

And Jesus came to the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem, and to the house of Martha and Mary which was there. xii. 1.

Early in the morning Jesus went into Jerusalem. There was a great crowd for the feast. And when they recognised Jesus, they surrounded him, tore branches from the trees, and threw their clothes before him on the road, and all shouted: "Here is our true king, he who has taught us the true God." 12.
13.

Jesus sat upon an ass's foal, riding, and the people ran before him and shouted; thus he rode into Jerusalem. And when he had thus ridden into the town, the whole people were excited, and asked: "Who is he?" They who knew him answered: "Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth, in Galilee." 14.
Mt. xxi. 10.

And Jesus went into the temple, and again drove out thence all the buyers and sellers. Mk. xi. 15.

And the orthodox high priests saw all this, and said to each other: "See what this man is doing. The whole people are following him." Jn. xii. 19.

But they did not dare to take him straight from among the people, because they saw that the people were gathering round him, and they bethought them how to take him by cunning. Mk. xi. 18.

Meanwhile Jesus was in the temple, and taught the people. Among the people, besides Jews, there were Greeks and heathen. The Greeks heard of the teaching of Jesus, and understood his teaching in Jn. xii. 20.

Jn. xii. 21. this way, namely, that he taught the truth, not
 22. only to Hebrews but to all men. Therefore
 they wished to be also his disciples, and spoke
 about this to Philip. And Philip told this to
 Andrew.

These two disciples feared to bring Jesus together
 with the Greeks. They were afraid lest the people
 should be angry with Jesus, because he did not
 recognise any difference between Hebrews and other
 nations, and they long wavered about telling this
 to Jesus; but afterwards both together told him, and
 hearing that the Greeks wished to be his followers,
 Jesus was troubled. He knew that the people
 hated him because he made no difference between
 the Hebrews and the heathen, but acknowledged
 himself to be the same as the heathen.

23. He said: "The hour is come to explain what I
 understand by the Son of Man, though I perish
 because, in explaining this, I destroy distinction
 between Jews and heathen. I must speak the truth.
 24. A grain of wheat will only bring forth fruit when it
 25. itself perishes. He who loves his fleshly life loses
 the true life, and he who despises the fleshly life
 keeps it for the everlasting life. He who wishes
 26. to follow my teaching, let him do as I do. And he
 who does as I do shall be rewarded by my Father.
 27. My soul is now wrestling. Shall I surrender my-
 self to the compromises of temporary life, or fulfil
 the will of the Father, now, at this hour? And
 what then? Surely now, when this hour is come
 in which I am living, I shall not say: 'Father,
 save me from that which I should do.' I cannot

say this for the sake of my life. And therefore I say: 'Father, show yourself in me.'” Jn. xii. 28.

And Jesus said: "Henceforth the present society of men is condemned to destruction. From now that which rules this world shall be destroyed. And when the Son of Man shall be exalted above the earthly life, then shall he unite all in one." 31. 32.

Then the Jews said to him: "We understand from the law what the everlasting Christ is; but why do you say that the Son of Man shall be exalted? What is the meaning of exalting the Son of Man?" 34.

To this Jesus answered: "To exalt the Son of Man, means to live by the life of understanding that is in you. To exalt the Son of Man above that which is earthly, means to believe in the light while there is light, in order to be a son of understanding." 35. 36.

"He who believes in my teaching believes not in me, but in that spirit which gave life to the world. And he who understands my teaching, understands that spirit which gave life to the world. But if anyone hears my words and does not fulfil them, it is not I who blame him, seeing that I came, not to accuse but to save. He who does not accept my words is accused, not by my teaching but by the understanding which is in himself. This it is which accuses him. I did not speak of myself, but said what my Father, the living spirit in me, suggested to me. That which I say, the spirit of understanding has told me, and that which I teach is the true life." 44. 45. 47. 48. 49. 50.

Jn. xii. 36. And having said this, Jesus went away, and again hid from the chief priests.

42. And of those who heard these words of Jesus, many of the powerful and wealthy people believed, but were afraid to acknowledge it to the chief priests, because not one of these priests believed
43. and acknowledged it. They were accustomed to judge according to man, and not according to God.

Mt. xxvi. 3. After Jesus had hidden, the high priests and the elders again met in the court of Caiaphas. And
4. they began to plan how to take Jesus unknown to
5. the people, for they were afraid to seize him openly.
14. And there came to their council one of the first
15. twelve disciples of Jesus, Judas Iscariot, who said:
"If you wish to take Jesus secretly, so that the
people may not see, I will find a time when there
will be few people with him, and will show you
where he is; and then take him. But what will
you give me for this?" They promised him for
this thirty silver coins. He agreed; and from that
16. time began to seek an opportunity to bring the
chief priests upon Jesus, in order to take him.

17. Meanwhile Jesus withdrew from the people, and
with him were only his disciples. When the first
feast of unleavened bread approached, the disciples
said to Jesus: "Where, then, shall we keep the Pass-
18. over?" And Jesus said: "Go into some village,
and enter someone's house, and say that we have
not time to prepare the feast, and ask him to admit
19. us to celebrate the Passover." And the disciples
did so; they asked a man in the village, and he

invited them in. And they came and sat down to the table, Jesus and the twelve disciples, Judas among them. Mt. xxvi. 20.

Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot had already promised to betray him to death, but he did not accuse Judas for this, or show him ill-will, but as in all his life he taught his disciples love, so even now he only reproached Judas lovingly. When they all twelve were seated at table, he looked at them, and said: "Among you sits he who has betrayed me. Yes, he who eats and drinks with me shall also destroy me." And he said nothing more, so that they did not know of whom he spoke, and they began to sup. Jn. xiii. 11.

When they began to eat, Jesus took a loaf and broke it into twelve parts, and gave each of the disciples a piece, and said: "Take and eat, this is my body." And he then filled a cup with wine, handed it to the disciples, and said: "Drink, all of you, of this cup." And when they had all drunk, he said: "This is my blood. I shed it that people may know my will, to forgive others their sins. For I shall soon die, and be no more with you in this world, but shall join you only in the kingdom of heaven. Mt. xxvi. 21.
Mk. xiv. 18
Mt. xxvi. 23.
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After this, Jesus got up from the table, girt himself with a towel, took a ewer of water, and began to wash the feet of all the disciples. And he came to Peter; and Peter said: "But why will you wash my feet?" Jesus said to him: "It seems strange to you that I should wash your feet; but you will know soon why I do this. Though you are clean, Lk. xxii. 18.
Jn. xiii. 4.
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yet not all of you are so, but among you is my betrayer, to whom I gave, with my own hand, bread and wine, and whose feet I wish to wash."

Jn. xiii. 12.

14. When Jesus had washed all their feet, he again sat down, and said: "Do you understand why I did this? It was so that you always may do the same for each other. I, your teacher, do this, that you may know how to behave towards those who do you evil. If you have understood this, and will do it, 17. then you will be happy. When I said that one of you will betray me, I did not speak of all of you, because 18. only a single one of you, whose feet I washed, and who ate bread with me, will betray me."

21. And having said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and yet again said: "Yes, yes, one of you will betray me."

22. And again the disciples began to look round at
23. each other, not knowing of whom he spoke. One
24. disciple sat near to Jesus, and Simon Peter signed
25. to him in a way to ask who the betrayer was. The
26. disciple asked. And Jesus said: "I will soak a
27. piece of bread, and give it to him; and he to whom
I shall give it is my betrayer." And he gave the
bread to Judas Iscariot, and said to him: "What
30. you wish to do, do quickly." Then Judas understood that he must go out, and as soon as he had taken the bread he forthwith went out. And it was impossible to follow him, as it was night.

31. And when Judas was gone out, Jesus said: "It is now clear to you what the Son of Man is. It is now clear to you that in him God is, to make him as blessed as God Himself.

“Children! I have not long now to be with you. Do not equivocate over my teaching, as I said to the orthodox, but do that which I do. I give you this, a new commandment. As I always, and to the end, have loved you all, do you always, and to the end, love each other. By this only will you be distinguished. Seek to be only thus distinguished from other people. Love one another.”

Jn. xiii. 33.

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And after this, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Mt. xxvi. 30.

And on the way Jesus said to them: “See, the time is coming when that shall happen which is written, the shepherd shall be killed, and all the sheep shall be scattered. And to-night this shall happen. I shall be taken, and you will all abandon me, and scatter.”

31.

Peter said to him in answer: “Even if all shall be frightened, and scatter, I will not deny you. I am ready for prison and for death with you.”

33.

And Jesus said to him: “But I tell you that this very night, before cock-crow, after I have been taken, you will deny me, not once, but thrice.”

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But Peter said that he would not deny him; and the other disciples averred the same.

35.

Then Jesus said to the disciples: “Before, neither I nor you had need of anything. You went without wallet and without change of shoes, and I so bade you do. But now, if I am accounted an outlaw, we can no longer do so, but we must be furnished with everything, and with swords, that we may not perish in vain.”

Lk. xxii. 35.

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And the disciples said: “See, we have two swords.”

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Jesus said: "It is well."

Mt. xxvi. 36.
Jn. xviii. 1.

And having said this, Jesus went with the followers into the garden of Gethsemane. Coming into the garden, he said: "Wait you here, but I wish to pray."

Mt. xxvi. 37.

And while near to Peter and the two brothers, sons of Zebedee, he began to feel weary and sad, and he said to them: "I feel very sad, and my soul is full of the anguish before death. Wait here, and be not cast down as I am."

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And he went off a little way, lay on the ground on his face, and began to pray, and said: "My Father, the Spirit! Let it be not as I will, which is that I should not die, but let it be as Thou wilt. Let me die, but for Thee, as a spirit, all is possible; let it be that I may not fear death, that I may escape the temptation of the flesh."

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And then he arose, went up to the disciples, and saw that they were cast down. And he said to them: "How is it you have not strength for one hour to keep up your spirit, even as I? Keep up your spirit, so as not to fall into the temptation of the flesh. The spirit is strong, the flesh is weak."

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And again Jesus went away from them, and again began to pray, and said: "Father, if I must suffer, must die, and am about to die, then so let it be. Let Thy will be done." And having said this, he again went up to the disciples, and saw that they were still more cast down, and ready to weep.

And he again went away from them, and the third time said: "Father, let Thy will be done." | Mt. xxvi. 44.

Then he returned to the disciples, and said to them: "Now be easy, and be calm, because it is now decided that I shall give myself into the hands of worldly men." | 45.

CHAPTER XI

THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE

The self-life is an illusion which comes through the flesh, an evil. The true life is the life common to all men

(“**Deliver us from evil**”)

Jn. xiii. 36. AND Peter said to Jesus: “Whither are you going?”

Jesus answered: “You will not have the strength now to go whither I am going; but afterwards you will go the same way.”

37. And Peter said: “Why do you think that I have not the strength now to follow whither you go? I will give up my life for you.”

38. And Jesus said: “You say that you will give up your life for me, and yet even before cock-crow you shall deny me thrice.” And Jesus said to the disciples: “Be not troubled and be not afraid, but believe in the true God of life, and in my teaching.”

xiv. 1. 2. The life of the Father is not only that which is
3. on earth, but there is another life also. If there were only such a life as the life here, I would say to you, that when I die I shall go into Abraham’s bosom, and make ready a place there

for you, and I shall come and take you, and we shall together live happily in Abraham's bosom. But I point out to you only the direction to life.

Jn. xiv. 4.

Thomas said: "But we do not know whither you go, and therefore we cannot know the way. We want to know what there will be after death."

5.

Jesus said: "I cannot show you what will be there; my teaching is the way, and the truth, and the life. And it is impossible to be joined with the Father of life otherwise than through my teaching. If you fulfil my teaching, you shall know the Father."

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Philip said: "But who is the Father?"

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And Jesus said: "The Father is He who gives life. I have fulfilled the will of the Father, and therefore by my life you may know wherein is the will of the Father. I live by the Father, and the Father lives in me. All that I say and do, I do by the will of the Father. My teaching is, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you do not understand my teaching, yet you see me and my works. And therefore you may understand what the Father is. And you know that he who shall follow my teaching may do the same as I; and yet more, because I shall die, but he will still live. He who shall live according to my teaching, shall have all that he wishes, because then the Son will be one with the Father. Whatever you may wish that accords with my teaching, all that you shall have. But for this you must love my teaching. My teaching will give you, in my place, an intercessor and comforter. This comforter will be the con-

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sciousness of truth, which worldly men do not understand; but you will know it in yourselves. You never will be alone, if the spirit of my teaching is with you. I shall die, and worldly men will not see me; but you will see me, because my teaching lives and you will live by it. And then, if my teaching shall be in you, you will understand that I am in the Father and the Father in me. He who shall fulfil my teaching, shall feel in himself the Father; and in him my spirit shall live."

22. And Judas, not Iscariot, but another, said to him: But why, then, may not all live by the spirit of truth?"

23. Jesus said in answer: "Only he who fulfils my teaching, only him the Father loves, and in him only can my spirit abide. He who does not fulfil my teaching, him my Father cannot love, because this teaching is not mine, but the Father's. This is all that I can tell you now. But my spirit, the spirit of truth, which shall take up its abode in you after I am gone, shall reveal to you all, and you shall recall and understand much of that which I have told you. So that you may always be calm in spirit, not with that worldly calm which men of the world seek, but with that calm of spirit in which we no longer fear anything. On this account, if you fulfil my teaching, you have no reason to grieve over my death. I, as the spirit of truth, will come to you, and, together with the knowledge of the Father, will take up my abode in your heart. If you fulfil my teaching, then you must rejoice, because instead of me you will have the Father

with you in your heart, and this is better for you.

“ My teaching is the tree of life. The Father is He who tends the tree. He prunes and cherishes those branches upon which there is fruit, that they may yield more. Keep my teaching of life, and life will be in you. And as a shoot lives not of itself, but out of the tree, so do you live by my teaching. My teaching is the tree, you are the shoots. He who lives by my teaching of life yields much fruit; and without my teaching there is no life. He who does not live by my teaching withers and dies; and the dry branches are cut off and burnt.

“ If you will live by my teaching, and fulfil it, then you shall have all that you desire. Because the will of the Father is, that you may live the true life and have that which you desire. As the Father gave me happiness, so I give you happiness. Hold to this happiness. I am living, because the Father loves me and I love the Father; do you also live by the same love. If you will live by this, you shall be blessed.

“ My commandment is, that you love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than to sacrifice one's life for the love of one's own, as I have done.

“ You are my equals, if you do that which I have taught you. I do not hold you as slaves, to whom orders are given, but as equals; because I have made clear to you all that I have known of the Father. You do not, of your own will, choose

Jn. xv. 1.
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my teaching; but because I have pointed out to you that only truth by which you will live, and from which you will have all that you wish.

Jn. xv. 17. "The teaching is summed up in this—Love one another.

18. "If the world should hate you, then do not
19. wonder; it hates my teaching. If you were at one
20. with the world, it would love you. But I have
21. severed you from the world, and for that it will
22. hate you. If they persecuted me, they will perse-
23. cute you also. They will do all this, because they
24. do not know the true God. I explained to them,
25. but they did not wish to hear me. They did not
26. understand my teaching, because they did not
27. understand the Father. They saw my life, and
28. my life showed them their error. And for this
29. they still more hated me. The spirit of truth
30. which shall come to you, will confirm this to you.
31. And you will accept it. I tell you this beforehand,
32. so that you may not be deceived when persecutions
33. shall be upon you. You shall be made outcasts;
34. men shall think that in killing you they do God's
35. pleasure. All this they cannot help doing, because
36. they understand neither my teaching nor the true
37. God. All this I tell you beforehand, so that you
38. may not wonder when it comes about.

xvi. 1.

2. "Well then, I now go away to that Spirit which
3. sent me; and now you understand, you need not
4. ask me whither I go. But before, you were grieved
5. that I did not tell you whither, to what place, I
6. depart.

7. "But I tell you truly that it is well for you that

I am going. If I do not die, the spirit of truth will not appear to you, but if I die, it will take up its abode in you. It will take up its abode in you, and it will be clear to you where untruth is, where truth is, and how to make decision. Untruth, in that people do not believe in the life of the spirit. Truth, in that I am one with the Father. Decision, in that the power of the fleshly life is at an end.

“I would say yet much more to you, but it is difficult for you to understand. But when the spirit of truth dwells in you, it will show you the whole truth, because it will tell you, not a new thing of its own, but that which is of God; and it will show you the way in all concerns of life. It also will be from the Father, as I am from the Father; therefore it also will tell you the same as I tell you.

“But when I, the spirit of truth, shall be in you, you will not always see me. Sometimes you will, and sometimes you will not, hear me.”

And the disciples said one to another: “What does he mean when he says: ‘Sometimes you will see me, sometimes you will not see me.’ What means this, ‘Sometimes you will, sometimes you will not’?”

Jesus said to them: “Do you not understand what this means: ‘Sometimes you will, sometimes you will not, see me’? You know how it always is in the world, that some are sad and grieved, while others rejoice. And you will grieve, but your grief will pass into joy. A woman, when she bears,

Jn. xvi. 8.

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grieves while she is in the pangs of childbirth ; but when that is ended, she does not remember the pangs, for joy that a man is born into the world.

Jn xvi. 22.

And so you will grieve ; anon you will see me, the spirit of truth will enter into you, and your grief will be turned into joy. Then you will no longer ask anything of me, because you will have all that you wish. Then all which one of you desires in the spirit, all that he will have from his Father.

24.

“ You formerly asked for nothing for the spirit ; but now ask what you will for the spirit, and you will have all ; so that your bliss will be full. Now I, as a man, cannot tell you this clearly in words, but when I, as the spirit of truth, shall live in you, I will proclaim to you clearly about the Father.

26.

Then it will not be I who will give you all you ask of the Father in the name of the spirit. But the

27.

Father will Himself give, because He loves you for having received my teaching. You have understood that understanding proceeds from the Father into the world and returns from the world to the Father ”

28.

29.

Then the disciples said to Jesus : “ Now we have understood everything, and have nothing more to ask, we believe that you are from God.”

30.

33.

And Jesus said : “ All that I have said to you is in order that you may have confidence and rest in my teaching. Whatever ills may befall you in the world, fear nothing : my teaching will conquer the world.”

xvii. 1.

After this, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven, and said :

<p>“ My Father! Thou hast given Thy Son the freedom of life in order that he may receive the true life. Life is the knowledge of the true God of the understanding, Who is discovered to me. I have discovered Thee to men on earth; I have done that work which Thou has bidden me do. I have shown Thy being to men on earth. They were Thine before, but by Thy will I have discovered to them the truth, and they know Thee. They have understood that all they have, their life, is from Thee only, and that I have taught them, not of myself, but as proceeding, I with them, from Thee. But I pray to Thee for those who acknowledge Thee. They have understood that all I have is Thine, and all that is Thine is mine. I am no longer in the world, for I return to Thee; but they are in the world, and therefore I pray Thee, Father, to preserve in them Thy understanding. I do not pray Thee to remove them from the world, but to free them from evil; to confirm them in Thy truth. Thy understanding is the truth. My Father! I wish them to be as I am; to understand as I do, that the true life began before the beginning of the world. That they should all be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, so they may also be one in me. I in them, Thou in me, so that all may be one; so that all men may understand they are not self-created, but that Thou, in love, hast sent them into the world as Thou didst send me. Father of truth! the world did not know Thee, but I knew Thee, and they have known Thee through me. And I have made plain to them what Thou</p>	<p>Jn. xvii. 3. 6. 4. 6. 7, 8. 9. 10, 11. 15. 17, 18. 21. 23. 25. 26.</p>
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art. Thou art in me, that the love with which Thou hast loved me may be in them also. Thou gavest them life, and therefore didst love them. I have taught them to know this, and to love Thee; so that Thy love might be returned from them to Thee.”

CHAPTER XII

THE VICTORY OF THE SPIRIT OVER THE FLESH

Therefore, for him who lives, not the self-life, but a common life in the will of the Father, there is no death. Bodily death is for him union with the Father

(“**Trine is the kingdom, power, and glory**”)

AFTER this, Jesus said: “Now arise, and let us go; already he is coming who will betray me.” Mt. xxvi. 46.

And he had hardly said this, when suddenly Judas, one of the twelve disciples, appeared, and with him a great throng of people with sticks and swords. Judas said to them: “I will bring you where he and his followers are, and so that you may know him among them all, he whom I shall first kiss, that is he.” And he straightway went up to Jesus, and said: “Hail, teacher!” and kissed him. 47.
48.

And Jesus said to him: “Friend, why are you here?” 49.
50.

Then the guard surrounded Jesus, and wished to take him.

And Peter snatched the sword from the high priest’s servant, and slashed the man’s ear. 51.

But Jesus said: “You must not oppose evil.” 52.

Cease." And he said to Peter: "Return the sword to him from whom you took it; he who shall draw the sword, shall perish with the sword."

Mt. xxvi. 55. And after this, Jesus turned to the crowd, and said: "Why have you come out against me, as against a robber, with arms? I was every day among you in the temple, and taught you, and you did not take me. But now is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Lk. xxii. 53. Then, having seen that he was taken, all the disciples ran away.

Mt. xxvi. 56. And the officer ordered the soldiers to take Jesus, and bind him. The soldiers bound him, and took him first to Annas. This was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, and Caiaphas was the high priest for that year, and lived in the same house with Annas. This was the same Caiaphas who planned how to destroy Jesus. He held that it was good for the sake of the people to destroy Jesus, because, if that were not done, it would be worse for the whole people. And they took Jesus to the house where this high priest lived.

Jn. xviii. 12. When they had brought Jesus thither, one of his disciples, Peter, followed him from afar, and watched where they were taking him. When they brought Jesus into the court of the high priest, Peter went in also, to see how all would end.

Mk. xiv. 53. And a girl in the yard saw Peter, and said to him: "You, also, were with Jesus of Galilee."

Mt. xxvi. 58. Then Peter was afraid that they would accuse him also, and he said aloud before all the people: "I do not know what you are talking about."

Afterwards, when they had taken Jesus into the house, Peter also entered the hall, with the people. In the hall, a woman was warming herself at the fire, and Peter approached. The woman looked at Peter, and said to the people: "See, this man is likely to have been with Jesus of Nazareth." Peter was still more frightened, and swore that he never was with him, and did not even know what kind of a man Jesus was. A little while after, the people came up to Peter, and said: "It is quite clear that you also were among the disturbers. By your speech one may know that you are from Galilee." Then Peter began to swear, and aver that he had never known or seen Jesus.

And he had hardly said this, when the cock crew. And Peter remembered those words which Jesus had said to him, when Peter swore that if all denied Jesus, he would not deny him: "Before the cock crow this night, you will deny me thrice." And Peter went out, and cried bitterly. Jesus had prayed that he might not thus fall into temptation. He had fallen into one temptation, that of strife, when he began to defend Jesus; and into another temptation, the fear of death, when he denied Jesus.

And there gathered to the high priest, the orthodox chief priests, assistants and officials. And when all were assembled, they brought in Jesus; and the chief priests asked him, what was his teaching, and who were his followers.

And Jesus answered: "I always said all I had to say before everybody openly, and so I speak now; I concealed nothing from anyone, and I conceal

Mt. xxvi. 71.

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Mk. xiv. 53.

Jn. xviii. 19.

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Jn. xviii. 21. nothing now. But about what do you question me? Question those who heard and understood my teaching. They will tell you."

22. When Jesus had said this, one of the high priest's servants struck him in the face, and said: "To whom are you speaking? Is this the way to answer the high priest?"

23. Jesus said: "If I spoke ill, say what I spoke ill. But if I said nothing ill, then there is no cause to beat me."

Mt. xxvi. 59. The orthodox chief priests strove to accuse Jesus, and at first did not find any proofs against him for which it was possible to condemn him.

60. Afterwards they found two witnesses. These said
61. about Jesus: "We ourselves heard how this man said: 'I will destroy this temple of yours made with hands, and in three days will build up another temple to God, not made with hands.'"

59. But this evidence, also, was not enough to con-
62. demn him. And therefore the high priest called up Jesus, and said: "Why do you not answer their evidence?"

63. Jesus held his tongue, saying nothing. Then the high priest said to him: "Well. say then, Are you the Christ, and of God?"

64. Jesus answered him, and said: "Yes, I am the Christ, and of God. You yourselves will now see that the Son of Man is made like God."

65. Then the high priest cried out: "You blaspheme! Now we do not want any evidence. We all hear,
66. now, that you are a blasphemer." And the high priest turned to the assembly, and said: "You

have yourselves heard that he blasphemeth God. To what do you sentence him for this?"

And all said: "We sentence him to death."

Then all the people, and the guards, fell upon Jesus, and began to spit in his face, to strike him on the cheeks, and to tear at him. They covered his eyes, hit him in the face, and asked: "Now, prophet, guess who it was that hit you?"

But Jesus held his peace.

Having abused him, they took him, bound, to Pontius Pilate. And they brought him into the court.

Pilate, the governor, came out to them and asked: "Of what do you accuse this man?"

They said: "This man is doing wrong; so we have brought him to you."

And Pilate said to them: "But if he does wrong, then judge him yourselves according to your law."

And they said: "We have brought him to you that you might execute him, for we are not allowed to kill anyone."

And so that happened which Jesus expected. He said that one must be ready to die on the cross at the hands of the Romans, more likely than at the hands of the Jews.

And when Pilate asked, whereof they accused him, they said, that he was guilty of stirring up the people, and that he forbade the payment of taxes to Cæsar, and that he set up himself as Christ and king.

Pilate listened to them, and bade Jesus be

Mt. xxvi. 67.

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xxvii. 2.

Jn. xviii. 28.

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Lk. xxiii. 2.

Jn. xviii. 33.

brought to him in the court. When Jesus came in, Pilate said to him: "So you are king of the Jews?"

Jn. xviii. 34.

Jesus said to him: "Do you really suppose that I am a king, or are you repeating only that which others have told you?"

35.

Pilate said: "I am not a Jew, therefore you cannot be my king, but your people have brought you to me. What kind of a man are you?"

36.

Jesus answered: "I am a king; but my kingdom is not an earthly one. If I were an earthly king, my subjects would fight for me, and would not yield to the high priests. But as it is, you see that my kingdom is not an earthly one."

37.

Pilate said to this: "But yet, do you not consider yourself a king?" Jesus said: "Not only I, but you also, cannot but consider me a king. For I only teach, in order to discover to all the truth of the kingdom of heaven. And everyone who lives by the truth, is a king."

38.

Pilate said: "You spoke of truth. What is truth?"

And having said this, he turned, and went to the chief priests. He went out and said to them: "In my opinion, this man has done no wrong."

Mk. xv. 3.

But the chief priests insisted upon their opinion, and said that he was doing much evil, and stirring up the people, and had raised the whole of Judæa right from Galilee.

4.

Then Pilate, in the presence of the chief priests, began to question Jesus. But, Jesus did not answer. Pilate then said to him: "Do you hear

of what they accuse you? Why do you not justify yourself?"

But Jesus still held his tongue, and said not another word, so that Pilate wondered at him.

Pilate remembered that Galilee was in the power of King Herod, and asked: "Ah! he is from Galilee?" They answered: "Yes."

Then he said: "If he is from Galilee, then he is under the authority of Herod, and I will send him to him." Herod was then in Jerusalem, and Pilate, in order to rid himself, sent Jesus to Herod.

When they brought Jesus to Herod, Herod was very glad to see him. He had heard much of him, and wished to know what kind of man he was. So he called Jesus to him, and began to question him about all he wished to know. But Jesus answered him nothing. And the chief priests and teachers, just as with Pilate, so before Herod, vehemently accused Jesus, and said that he was a rioter. And Herod deemed Jesus an empty fellow, and to mock him, bade them clothe him in red, and send him back to Pilate. Herod was pleased at Pilate's showing respect to him, by sending Jesus for his judgment, and on this account they became friends, whereas formerly they had been at variance.

Now, when they brought Jesus again to Pilate, Pilate called back the chief priests and Jewish authorities, and said to them: "You brought this man to me for stirring up the people, and I have examined him before you, and do not see that he is a rioter. I sent him with you to Herod, and

Mk. xv. 5.

Lk xxiii. 6.

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15.

now, see,—nothing wrong is found in him. And, in my opinion, there is no cause to punish him with death. Had you not better punish him and let him go?"

Mt. xxvii. 23. But when the chief priests heard this, all cried out: "No, punish him in the Roman fashion! 21. Stretch him on the cross!" Pilate heard them out, and said to the chief priests: "Well, as you will! But you have a custom at the feast of the Passover to pardon one condemned malefactor. Well, I have lying in prison, Barabbas, a murderer and rioter. Which one of the two must be let free: Jesus or Barabbas?"

Pilate thus wished to save Jesus; but the chief priests had so worked upon the people, that all cried out: "Barabbas, Barabbas!"

22. And Pilate said: "And what shall be done with Jesus?"

They again cried out: "Roman fashion,—to the cross, to the cross with him."

23. And Pilate tried to talk them over. He said: "Why do you press so hardly on him? He has done nothing that he should be punished with death, and he has done you no harm. I will set him free, because I find no fault in him."

Jn. xix. 4.

6. The chief priests and their servants cried out: "Crucify, crucify him!"

And Pilate said to them: "If so, then take him and crucify him yourselves. But I see no fault in him."

7. The chief priests answered: "We ask only that which our law demands. By our law, he must be

executed for having made himself out to be Son of God."

When Pilate heard this word, he was troubled, because he did not know what this term "Son of God" meant. And having returned into the court, Pilate called up Jesus again, and asked him: "Who are you, and whence are you?" Jn. xix. 8.
9.

But Jesus did not answer.

Then Pilate said: "But why do you not answer me? You surely see that you are in my power, and that I can crucify you, or set you free." 10.

Jesus answered him: "You have no power. There is power only from above." 11.

Pilate, nevertheless, wished to set Jesus free, and he said to them: "How is it you wish to crucify your king?" 12.
15.

But the Jews said to him: "If you set Jesus free, you will thereby show that you are a disloyal servant to Cæsar, because he who sets himself up as king is an enemy to Cæsar. Our king is Cæsar; but crucify this man." 12.
15.

And when Pilate heard these words, he understood that he could now no longer refuse to execute Jesus. 13.

Then Pilate went out before the Jews, took some water, washed his hands, and said: "I am not guilty of the blood of this just man." And the whole people cried out: "Let his blood be upon us and all our children." Mt. xxvii. 24.
25.

So that the chief priests gained the upper hand. And Pilate sat in his place of judgment, and ordered Jesus to be first flogged. Lk. xxiii. 23.
Jn. xix. 13.
Mt. xxvii. 26.

Mt. xxvii. 28,
29.

When they had flogged him, the soldiers, who had done this, put a crown upon his head, and a rod in his hand, and threw a red cloak over his back, and fell to reviling him; in mockery, they bowed down to his feet, and said: "Hail, king of the Jews!" And others struck him on the cheeks, over the face, and spat in his face.

Jn. xix. 15.

But the chief priests cried: "Crucify him! Our king is Cæsar! Crucify him!"

16.

And Pilate bade him be crucified.

Mt. xxvii. 31.

Then they stripped Jesus of the red dress, put on him his own clothing, and bade him bear the cross to a place called Golgotha, there to be crucified at once. And he carried his cross, and so came to Golgotha. And there they stretched Jesus on the cross, beside two other men. These two were at the sides, and Jesus was in the middle.

Jn. xix. 18.

When they had crucified Jesus, he said: "Father! forgive them; they do not know what they are doing."

Lk. xxiii. 34.

And when Jesus was hung on the cross, the people thronged round him and railed at him.

35.

They came up, wagged their heads at him, and said: "So, you wished to destroy the temple of Jerusalem, and to build it up again in three days.

Mk. xv. 29.

Well now, save yourself, come down from the cross!" And the chief priests and leaders stood there also, and mocked at him, and said: "He thought to save others, but cannot save himself.

30.

Now show that you are Christ; come down from the cross, and then we will believe you. He said

31.
32.

Now show that you are Christ; come down from the cross, and then we will believe you. He said

that he was the Son of God, and that God would not forsake him. But how is it that God has now forsaken him?" And the people, and the chief priests, and the soldiers, railed at him, and even one of the robbers crucified with him, he too railed at him.

One of the robbers, reviling him, said: "If you are Christ, save yourself and us." Lk. xxiii. 39.

But the other robber heard this, and said: "Do you not fear God? You who are yourself on the cross, do you even rail at the innocent? You and I are executed for our deserts, but this man has done no harm." 40.

"And, turning to Jesus, this robber said to him: "Lord, remember me in your kingdom." 41.

And Jesus said to him: "Even now you are blessed with me!" 42.

But at the ninth hour, Jesus, worn out, cried aloud: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!" This means: "My God, my God! Why hast thou forsaken me?" 43.

And when the people heard this, they began to say jeeringly: "He is calling the prophet Elias! Let us see whether Elias will come!" Mt. xxvii. 46.

Afterwards, Jesus cried out: "Let me drink!" 47.

And a man took a sponge, soaked it in vinegar, that stood by, and gave it to Jesus on a reed. Jn. xix. 28.

Jesus sucked the sponge, and cried out in a loud voice: "It is finished! Father, I give up my spirit into your hands!" And, letting his head fall, he gave up the ghost. 30.

Lk. xxiii. 46.

A PROLOGUE



THE UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE

The proclamation of Christ has replaced the belief in an external God by the understanding of life

THE Gospel is the revelation of this truth, that the first source of everything is the understanding of life itself. This being so, the Gospel puts in the place of what men call "God" a right understanding of life. Without this understanding there is no life; men only live in so far as they understand life.

Those who do not grasp this, and who deem that the body is the source of life, shut themselves out from true life; but those who comprehend that they live, not through the body, but through the spirit, possess true life. This is that true life which Jesus Christ came to teach to men. Having conceived that man's life flows from the understanding, he gave to men the teaching and example of a life of the understanding in the body.

Earlier religions were the announcements of law as to what men ought to do, and not to do, for the

service of God. The teaching of Jesus, on the other hand, deals only with the understanding of life. No man has ever seen, and no man can see or know, an external God; therefore our life cannot take for its aim the service of such a God. Only by adopting for his supreme principle the inner understanding of life, having for its source the acknowledgment of God, can man surely travel the way of life.

The announcement of salvation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is the announcement of salvation; all men who come to know they are sons of God receive true life. The foundation and beginning of all things is the understanding of life. Understanding of life is God. This the announcement of Jesus Christ reveals as the foundation and beginning of everything. All is built upon the understanding of life, without which there can be no living. In this is true life.

This understanding is the light of truth. But this light shines amid the darkness, and the darkness is not able to overcome it. The true light has always been in the world, and shines upon all men who come into the world. It has been in the world, and the world existed only because it contained this light; but the world has not adhered to it. This light has appeared in its place, but its place has not retained it.

All those who have grasped the understanding of life have received the opportunity of becoming

Mk. i. 1.

Jn. xx. 31.

i. 1.

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12.

- Jn. i. 13. | like it through belief in it. Those who have believed that life is in the understanding have become the sons, not of the flesh, but of the understanding.
14. | And the understanding of life was united with the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, and so we were given to know that the offspring of understanding, man in the flesh, is of the same nature as his Father, the original source of life.
15. | The teaching of Jesus is the perfect and true
16. | faith. In fulfilling the teaching of Jesus, we have understood the new faith which replaces the old.
17. | It was law that Moses gave, but we come to understand the true faith through Jesus Christ.
18. | No man has ever seen God; the Son only, who is in the Father, has shown us the way of life.

A SUMMARY



THE UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE IS TO DO GOOD

*The announcement of blessedness made by Jesus Christ is
an announcement of understanding of life*

THE understanding of life is this: The source of life is perfect goodness, and therefore human life is perfectly good in its nature. To understand the source of life, it is necessary to believe that our spirit, the life in man, came from this source. The man, formerly not living, is summoned into life by this, his origin. This source of life appoints blessedness for man, because its own being is blessedness.

To keep in harmony with the source of his life, a man must fix himself upon the one characteristic of this source which is comprehensible to him, and which finds blessedness in doing good. Therefore man's life must be devoted to this blessedness; that is, to doing good from love. But we can find no objects of goodness other than men. All our own bodily desires are out of harmony with this prin-

ciple of blessedness; and therefore they, with all the life of the body, must be surrendered to the principle of blessedness, to active love to mankind.

Love to our fellow-men follows from the understanding of life revealed by Jesus Christ. The confirmations of this understanding of life are twofold. One is, that when not accepted, the source of life seems to be an impostor, who gives to men an unsatisfied craving for life and blessedness. The other is, that man feels in his soul that love and goodness towards his fellow-men is the only true, free, eternal life.

The First Epistle of John the Divine.

Jn. i. 1-3.

This is the announcement of the understanding of life through which men have fellowship with the Father of life, and therefore have eternal life.

4.

This is an announcement of blessedness.

5.

The understanding of life is, that God is life and blessedness, and that in life and blessedness, death and evil do not exist.

6.

If we say that we are at one with God, while we feel we are living in evil and death, then either we are imposing upon ourselves, or we are not doing what we ought to do.

7.

Only by living the same life as His, do we become at one with Him.

ii. 1.

As a teacher of this life, we have Jesus Christ, the right-living. He freed us and all who will, from wrong-living.

3.

The proof that we know the teaching of Jesus

Christ is, that we carry out his commandments. Anyone who says he knows the teaching of Jesus Christ, and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and there is no truth in him. But the man who carries out his commandments has the love of God in him. Only through love can we know that we are at one with God.

1 Jn. ii. 4.

5.

He who says he is at one with Jesus Christ, must also live as Jesus lived.

6.

He who says of himself that he is in life and blessedness, but hates his living brother-man, is not in life and blessedness, but in death and evil; and he does not know what he is doing; he is blind, hating the life which is in himself also.

9-11.

To escape this blindness, a man must remember that everything in the world, in the earthly life, is the desire of the flesh, or vanity, and that all this is not from God. And that all this passes away, perishes. And that only he who does the will of God, which is love, endures for ever.

15.

16.

17.

Only he who recognises that his spirit is the offspring of the Father, is united with the Father. Therefore remain in the knowledge that you are, in the spirit, sons of the Father, God, and you will have eternal life.

23.

24.

God gives us the opportunity of being His sons, and like Himself. So that, in this present life, we become His sons. We do not know what we are to be, but we know that we are like Him, and that we are united with Him.

iii. 1.

2.

Confidence in this eternal life rids us of our mistakes, and purifies us to the Father's purity.

3.

1 Jn. iii. 4. For whoever commits sin, violates the will of God.

5. Jesus Christ came to teach us the way to deliver-
6. ance from sin and unity with God. Therefore
those who become united with Him can no longer
7. sin. Only that man will sin who does not know
8. Him. But he who lives in God, acts righteously ;
9. and only he who is not united with God, does
unrighteously. He who owns his origin from God,
cannot do any falsehood.

10. Therefore men are of two classes—men of God,
and men who are not of God ; men who know the
right and love the brethren, and men who do not
know the right and do not love the brethren.

11. For, following the teaching of Jesus Christ, we
14. cannot refrain from loving one another. Through
the teaching of Jesus Christ, we know that we have
passed from death to life, because we love the
brethren, and that he who does not love his brother
15. is in death. We know that one who does not love
his living brother does not love life. And he who
does not love life cannot himself possess life.

16. By this teaching we recognise love, in the fact
that life is given to us ; and we know, therefore, that
17. we also must give up our life for our brother. So
that he who, himself having the means of life, sees
his brother in need, and does not yield his own life
for his brother's sake,—in him there is no divine
love.

18. We must love, not by words, but by deeds, in
19. truth. And he who so loves has a quiet heart,
because he is at one with God.

If our heart is at strife in us, we subdue it to God. For God is higher than the wishes of our hearts. But if there is no strife in our hearts, then we are blessed, and that because we do all we can, the best deeds, and fulfil all that is ordained for us. 1 Jn. iii. 20. 21.

And this is ordained for us—to believe that man is the son of God, and to love our brother. Those who do this are united with God, and are risen above the world, because that which is in us is greater, of more consequence, than all the world. 22. 23. iv. 4.

Therefore let us love one another. Love is from God, and everyone who loves is the son of God, and knows God. And he who does not love, does not know God. Because God is love. 7. 8.

That God is love, we know because He sent into the world this Spirit, such as He Himself is, and thereby gave us life. We did not exist, and God was under no compulsion, but He gave us life and blessedness; therefore He must love us. 9. 10.

No man can perfectly know God. All we can know of Him is, that He had love towards us, and because of this love gave us life. And to be in fellowship with God, we must be like Him, and do as He does; we must love one another. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and we dwell in Him. 11-13.

Having understood the love of God towards us, we believe that God is love, and that he who loves is united with God. And having understood this, we do not fear death, because in this world we become such as God Himself is. Our life becomes love, and is thus freed from fear and all sufferings. 16. 17. 18.

1 Jn. iv. 19.

We love, because He loves. And we love not a God whom no one can love, because no one sees Him, but our brother-man, whom it is possible to love.

20. He who says he loves God, and yet hates his brother, is deceiving himself. Because, if he does not love the brother whom he sees, how, then, can

21. he love God whom he does not see? For it is ordained to us to love God in our brother.

v. 3.

To love God, is to fulfil His commandments. And these commandments are not hard for him

4. who, recognising that his origin is from God, rises

5. above the world. Our faith lifts us above the world. And our faith in that which Jesus, the

6. Son of God, taught us, is true. He has taught us that he lived in the world, not merely in the way

of truth, but by the power of the spirit. And that spirit is in us, and makes us strong in truth, following out the teaching.

9. If we believe in what men affirm, why, then, should we not believe in the spirit that is in ourselves? He who believes in that spirit of life

10. which is in us, has assurance within himself. And he who does not believe that there is a spirit from above us, from the Father, makes God a deceiver.

11. The spirit in us affirms that our life is eternal.

12. He who knows that this spirit is the offspring of the Infinite Spirit, and becomes like Him, has eternal

14. life. And for him who so believes, there is no difficulty left in his life, but everything he desires in the will of the Father will come to him.

18. Therefore he who believes himself to be a son of God, will not live in any deception, but is free from

evil. Because he knows that this material world is an illusion, and that in man himself there is the capacity to know that which has real existence. And only the Spirit, the Son, the offspring of the Father, really exists.

1 Jn. v. 19.
20.

A RECAPITULATION



CHAPTER I

THE SON OF GOD

*Man, the son of God, is powerless in the flesh, and
free in the spirit*

(“Our Father”)

JESUS in his childhood called God his Father. There arose in Judæa, at this time, a prophet named John. John preached the coming of God upon earth. He said that when men should change their lives, when they should treat one another as equals, when they should cease to injure one another, and, instead of so doing, serve one another, then God would appear upon earth, and His kingdom would be established on earth. Jesus, having heard this declaration, withdrew from among men and went into the wild places, to meditate upon the meaning of human life, and upon his relations to that infinite source of all being, called God. And Jesus accepted as his Father, that infinite source of being whom John had called God.

After passing days in the wild places without taking food, Jesus began to suffer hunger. Then he thought to himself, "I am the Son of God the Almighty; I ought, then, to be as He is. But now, I wish to eat, and no bread comes for my need; I am not, then, all-powerful." Then he said to himself, "It is true, I cannot make for myself bread out of stones; but I can overcome the want of bread. So that, though not all-powerful in the body, I am all-powerful in the spirit, and I can quell the body; and thus I am the Son of God, not through the flesh, but through the spirit."

Then he said, "But if I am the Son of the Spirit, I can free myself of the body, and do away with it." But to that he answered, "I am born as spirit, embodied in flesh. Such is the will of my Father. and I cannot set myself against His will."

"But if you cannot satisfy the wants of your body, and if you are no better able to free yourself from your body," he went on to himself, "you ought, then, to labour for the body, and to enjoy all the pleasures it gives you."

But to that he answered, "I cannot satisfy the wants of my body any better than I can rid myself of it; but my life is all-powerful, in that it is the spirit of my Father; and it follows that in my body I must serve the spirit, my Father, and labour for Him only! And becoming convinced that man's life is only in the spirit of the Father, Jesus left the wild places, and began to declare his teaching to men. He said that the spirit dwelt in him,

that henceforth heaven was opened, that the powers of heaven were brought to men, that for men a free and boundless life was begun, and that all men, however unfortunate in the body, may be happy.

CHAPTER II

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

*Therefore man must work, not for the flesh, but for
the spirit*

(“*Ubi est in heaven*”)

THE Jews, holding themselves orthodox, worshipped an external God, whom they regarded as Creator and Lord of the Universe. According to their teaching, this external God had made an agreement with them. According to this agreement, he had promised the Jews to help them, and they had promised to worship him; and the chief condition of the alliance was the keeping of the Sabbath.

But Jesus said: “The Sabbath is a human institution. That man shall live in the spirit, is more important than all religious ceremonies. Like all external forms of religion, the keeping of the Sabbath includes in itself a delusion. It is impossible to do nothing on the Sabbath. Good actions must be done at any time; and if keeping the Sabbath prevents good action, then the Sabbath is an error.”

Another condition in this agreement with God, was the avoidance of the society of infidels. As

to this, Jesus said: "God asks for no sacrifice to Himself, but only that men should love one another."

Still another condition related to the following of rules about washing and cleansing; as to which, Jesus said: "God demands, not outside cleanliness, but only, pity and love towards men." He taught that all such external ceremonies were harmful, and that the church tradition itself was an evil. The church tradition causes men to neglect the most important acts of love, as for instance, love to father and mother. Of all external ceremonies, of all the ritual of the old law, which had for object, as was held, the purification of men, Jesus said: "Know all of you, that nothing from outside can defile a man; only what he thinks, and what he does, defiles him."

After this, Jesus went to Jerusalem, a town considered holy, entered the temple, where the orthodox believed that God dwelt, and there taught: "It is useless to offer God sacrifices; man is of more consequence than a temple; and the only duty is, to love one's neighbour, and help him."

And he taught, further: "Men need not worship God in any particular place, but they must worship Him in spirit and in act. The spirit cannot be seen or shown. The spirit is man's consciousness of his sonship to the Infinite Spirit. No temple is needed. The true temple is the society of men united in love." He said: "All external worship of the divine is not only false and injurious, as with the Jews, among whom it caused murder and

admitted neglect of parents, but harmful, because one who goes through external ceremonials, thinks himself made righteous, and free from the need of doing what love demands." He said: "Only that man aims at good, and does good, who feels his own imperfection. To do good deeds, a man must think of himself as imperfect. But external acts of worship lead men into the delusion of self-conceit. All external ceremonies are unnecessary, and must be thrown aside. Deeds of love are incompatible with ceremonial performances, and it is impossible to do good in that form. Man is the son of God by the spirit, and therefore must serve the Father in the spirit."

CHAPTER III

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

The life of all men has proceeded from the spirit of the Father

(“Blessed be Thy Name”)

JOHN'S disciples asked Jesus what was meant by his “Kingdom of God.” He said that the Kingdom of God as preached by him was also that preached by John; and that therein every man, however poor, might be blessed.

And Jesus said to the people: “John was the first who preached to men a Kingdom of God which is not of the external world, but is in the soul of man. The orthodox went to hear John, but understood nothing, because they know only those fictions of their own about an external God, which they preach; and they are astonished when no one pays heed to them. But John preached the truth of the Kingdom of God within men, and therefore he did more than them all. He did so much that, since his time, the law and the prophets, and all external forms of divine worship, are superseded. Since he taught, it is made clear that the Kingdom of God is in the soul of man.

“The beginning and the end of all things is in

the soul of man. Every man, in addition to his bodily life, to the fact which he knows as to his conception from a bodily father through a bodily mother, recognises in himself a free spirit, intelligent, and independent of the body. This very Spirit, infinite, and proceeding from the infinite, is the origin of all, and is what we call God. We know Him only as we recognise Him within us. This Spirit is the source of our life, and must be ranked above everything; and to Him we must live. By making Him the foundation of our life, we gain the true and infinite life.

“The Father-Spirit, who sends this Spirit into men, cannot have sent Him to deceive men, so that, while conscious of Him, they might come to lose Him. This infinite Spirit being in man, He must have been given to the end that men, through Him, might have infinite life. Therefore the man who conceives of this Spirit as his life, has infinite life. The man who does not so conceive, has no true life. Men can of themselves choose life or death. Life,—in the Spirit; death,—in the flesh. The life of the Spirit is goodness, light. The life of the flesh is evil, darkness. To believe in the Spirit means to do good deeds; to disbelieve, means to do evil deeds. Goodness is life; evil is death.

“God, the Creator, external to us, the beginning of all beginnings, we do not know. Our conception of Him can only be this, that He sowed in men the Spirit; sowing, as a sower does, everywhere, not discriminating, over the field; and the seed, falling on good ground, grows, falling on sterile ground, perishes.

“The Spirit alone gives life, and men are responsible for keeping or losing it. To the Spirit, no evil exists. Evil is but an illusion of life. There are only the two conditions, of living and not-living. Thus the world presents itself to every man; and for every man there is in his soul a consciousness of the Kingdom of Heaven. Each one can, by his own free will, enter, or not enter, that Kingdom. To enter, belief in the life of the Spirit is necessary. He who believes in that life of the Spirit, has infinite life.”

CHAPTER IV

GOD'S KINGDOM

Therefore the will of the Father is the life and welfare of all men

(“**Thy kingdom come**”)

JESUS pitied men because they did not know true blessedness; therefore he taught them. He said: “Blessed are those who have no property, no position, and who do not care for these; and unhappy are they who seek riches and position. Because such poor and oppressed people are in the Father’s will; but the rich and acknowledged people seek only to make gain from men for this temporary life. To carry out God’s will, one must not fear to be poor and despised, but must rejoice in this, while showing men what true happiness is.

“To carry out the will of the Father, which gives life and welfare, mankind must fulfil five commandments, namely:

The First Commandment.

To do no ill to anyone, and to so act as to rouse evil in no one; because from evil comes evil.

The Second Commandment.

Not to follow after women, and not to desert the woman with whom a union has once been formed ; because desertion and change of wives causes all the world's dissoluteness.

The Third Commandment.

To take no oath of any kind ; because nothing can be promised, since man is in the Father's power ; and oaths, when taken, are for bad ends.

The Fourth Commandment.

Not to fight against evil, but to suffer wrong, and to give even more than men would exact from us ; not to condemn, and not to use the law ; because every man is himself full of errors, and cannot guide others. By taking revenge, we only teach others to revenge.

The Fifth Commandment.

To make no difference between a fellow-countryman and a foreigner ; because all men are children of one father.

“ The observance of these five commandments is necessary, not to win praise from men, but for oneself, for one's own welfare ; therefore there is no propriety in praying and fasting in sight of men.

“ The Father knows all that men need, and there is no necessity to pray for particular things ; it is

simply needful to seek to be in the Father's will. And this is the will of the Father, that a man shall have no anger towards any other. To keep fasts is not essential, for men may fast merely to win praise from men, and such praise ought to be avoided. It is only necessary carefully to conform to the will of God, and the rest will follow of itself. While caring for the body, care cannot be given to the Kingdom of Heaven. Even though a man does not trouble about food and clothing, he will live on. The Father will give life. The needful thing is, at this present moment, to be in the will of the Father. The Father gives to his children what they need. We must desire only the power of the Spirit, which the Father gives.

“The five commandments mark out the road to the Kingdom of Heaven. This narrow path alone leads to eternal life. False teachers—wolves in the skins of sheep—always try to turn men astray from this road; they must be guarded against. False teachers can always be detected, because they teach evil in the name of good. If they teach violence and executions, they are false teachers. By the deeds they teach they may be known.

“Not that man does the Father's will, who calls on the name of God; but he who does good deeds. And he who fulfils these five commandments will have secure and true life, of which nothing can deprive him. But he who does not fulfil them will have an insecure life; one soon to be taken from him, leaving him nothing.”

The teaching of Jesus filled the people with

admiration and joy, because it offered freedom to everyone.

The teaching of Christ was the fulfilment of John's prophecy that God's chosen one should bring light to men, overcome evil, and restore truth, by kindness, meekness, and goodness, but not by violence.

CHAPTER V

THE TRUE LIFE

The fulfilment of the personal will leads to death; the fulfilment of the Father's will gives the true life

(“Thy will be done”)

THE wisdom of life is, the recognition of one's own life as the offspring of the Father's Spirit. Men set before themselves the aims of the bodily life, and in pursuing these aims, they harass themselves and others.

In receiving the doctrine of the spiritual life, and in subjecting and making less of the body, men will find a full satisfaction in the life of the Spirit, in that life which is appointed for them.

Jesus said to his disciples: “The true food of man is the fulfilment of the will of the Father-Spirit. This fulfilment is always possible. Our whole life is a gathering of the fruits of the life sown within us by the Father. Those fruits are the good we are doing among men.

“We ought not to look forward with anxiety for anything. We ought, without ceasing our interest in life, to do good among men.”

After this, Jesus happened to be in Jerusalem,

where was a bath, beside which lay a sick man, doing nothing but waiting a miracle to cure him. Jesus came, and said to him: "Do not expect a cure by a miracle, but live your life according to your strength, and do not be deluded as to the purpose of life." The invalid obeyed Jesus, got up, and went away.

The orthodox, seeing this, began to reproach Jesus for what he said, and because he had, on the Sabbath, raised an invalid. Jesus said to them: "I did nothing new. I have only the power to act of our common Father, the Spirit. He lives, and gives life to men, and I have done likewise. And to do this is every man's business. Everyone is free, and can live, or not live. To live, is to fulfil the will of the Father, which is to do good to others. Not to live, is to fulfil one's own will, not to do good to others. It is in everyone's power to do this, or that; to gain life, or to destroy it.

"The true life of man is like this. A master apportioned to his slaves some valuable property, and told each one to work upon what was given to him. Some worked; some did not work, but put out of sight what was given to them. The master demanded an account: and to those who worked, he gave yet more than they had; but from those who did not work, he took away everything."

The portion of valuable property of the master is the Spirit of life in man, who is the son of the Father-Spirit. He who in his life works for the sake of the spirit-life, receives infinite life; he who does not work, is deprived of what was given to him.

The true life is the common life of humanity, and not the life of the individual. Each one must work for the life of others.

After this, Jesus went to a desert place, and many people followed him. At evening, the disciples came, and said: "How shall we feed all these people?" Among the gathering were some who had nothing, and some who had bread and fish. And Jesus said to his disciples: "Give me all the bread you have." He took the loaves, and gave bread to his disciples, who gave to others, who did likewise. So all ate of others' bread, not consuming all there was, and all were satisfied. And Jesus said: "Act just in this way. It is not necessary that each one should get food for himself, but it is needful to do that which the Spirit in man demands, namely, that each shall share to others what supply there is. The true food of man is the Spirit of the Father. Man lives by the Spirit only. Everything in life must be made subservient to this; for life consists in doing, not one's own will, but the will of the Father of life. And that will is, that the perfect life of the Spirit which is given to men, shall remain in them, and that all shall cherish the life of the Spirit within them until the hour of death. The Father, the source of life, is Spirit. Life consists only in carrying out the will of the Father; and to carry out that will of the Spirit, one must surrender the body. The body is the food, the material for the life of the Spirit. Only in giving up the body does the Spirit live."

After this, Jesus chose certain disciples, and sent

them everywhere to preach the doctrine of the life of the Spirit. In sending them, he said: "Preach the life of the Spirit, and, consistently therewith, renounce beforehand all fleshly desires, and have nothing of your own. Be ready for persecution, privation, suffering. Those who love the life of the body will hate you, harass and murder you; but do not fear. If you fulfil the will of the Father, then you possess the life of the Spirit, of which no one can deprive you."

The disciples went away, and when they returned, declared that everywhere the teachings of evil were conquered by them.

Then the orthodox told Jesus that his teaching, even if it conquered evil, was in itself an evil, because those who carry it out must of necessity suffer. To this, Jesus answered: "Evil cannot conquer evil. If evil is conquered, it can only be by good. Goodness is the will of the Father-Spirit common to all men. Every man has a knowledge of what benefits himself. If he does similar benefits to others, if he does that which is the will of the Father, then he will do good. Therefore the carrying out of the will of the Father-Spirit results well, even though it be followed with sufferings and deaths of those who fulfil that will."

CHAPTER VI

THE FALSE LIFE

Therefore, in order to receive the true life, man must on earth resign the false life of the flesh, and live by the Spirit

(“On earth, as in heaven”)

To the spiritual life there can be no difference between members of one family and strangers. Jesus said that his mother and his brethren, as such, had no superior claims upon him; only those were near to him who fulfilled the will of the common Father. A man's life and welfare depend, not on family relations, but on the life of the Spirit.

Jesus said: “Blessed are those who retain their understanding of the Father. The man who lives by the Spirit has no home, for, being by the Spirit, he cannot own any special house.” And he said that he himself had no fixed abode; that not being needed to enable a man to carry out the will of the Father, which can be done at all times, in all places.

The death of the body cannot be dreadful to a man who gives himself up to the will of the Father, because the life of the Spirit goes on despite the death of the body. Jesus said that he who

believes in the life of the Spirit, has nothing to fear.

No cares make it impossible for a man to live in his Spirit. When a man said that he would obey the teaching of Christ presently, but that he must first bury his father, Jesus answered: "Only the dead trouble about burial of the dead; but the living live always in fulfilling the will of the Father." Cares about relations and family affairs must not hinder the life of the Spirit. He who troubles about the results to his bodily life from the fulfilment of the Father's will, does as the ploughman does, who ploughs, looking not in front, but behind.

Cares for the pleasures of the bodily life, which seem so important to men, are delusions. The only, the real business of life, is the making plain of the Father's will, attention to it, and fulfilment of it. To Martha's reproach, that she alone troubled about the supper, and that her sister Mary did not help, but listened to his teaching, Jesus said: "You blame her unjustly. Take some trouble, yourself, if you need what comes of it, but let those who do not need pleasures for the body, attend to the one essential business of life."

And Jesus said: "He who desires the true life, which comes of fulfilling the Father's will, must first of all give up his own personal desires." He must not only cease to plan out his life to his own wishes, but he must be ready at any moment to bear any privations and sufferings. One who seeks to arrange his bodily life to his own desires, will

wreck the true life of fulfilment of the Father's will.

Most ruinous to the life of the Spirit is the love of gain, of getting rich. Men forget that, however much they acquire riches and goods, they may die at any moment, and their property is not an essential of life. Death broods over every one of us. Sickness, killing by men, fatal accidents, may at any minute end life. Bodily death is the unescapable condition of every second of life. While one lives, one must regard every hour of life as a delay, granted by the kindness of some power. This we must remember, and not say that we do not know it. We know and foresee in regard to all events of earth and sky, but death, which we know waits on us every moment, we forget. But unless we forget death, we cannot yield ourselves to the life of the body, we cannot build upon it. To follow the teaching of Christ, one has to count up the advantages of serving the bodily life, of serving one's own will, and the advantages of fulfilling the Father's will. Only one who clearly takes account of this can be a disciple of Christ. And he who makes the calculation, will not prefer a visionary benefit and a visionary life to the true good and the true life. The true life has been given to men, and men know it, they hear its summons, but, always swept on by the cares of the moment, they are withheld from it. The true life is as though a rich man gave a feast, and summoned the guests. His call to them is the voice of the Spirit of the Father inviting all men to Himself. But of those invited some are

busy in commerce, some in the household, some in family affairs, none come to the feast. Only the poor, such as have no cares of the body, come to the feast, and gain happiness. So men, distracting themselves with cares for the bodily life, are losing the true life. He who cannot, and that altogether, decline the cares and gains of the bodily life, cannot fulfil the Father's will, because one cannot serve oneself a little, and the Father a little.

A man must calculate, whether it is better to serve the body, whether it is possible to arrange his life according to his own will. He must do as one does who would build a house, or who contemplates war. Such an one will reckon whether he has means to finish building, whether he has means to conquer. And upon seeing that he has not, he will not spend for nothing either labour or armies. Otherwise, he fruitlessly wastes, and will be a laughing-stock to men. If one could arrange the bodily life to one's own will, then it might be well to serve the body; but as that is impossible, then better sacrifice the body, and serve the Spirit. Otherwise, one will gain neither one thing nor another; the bodily life will not be gained, and the spiritual life will be lost. So that, to fulfil the Father's will, the bodily life must be quite resigned.

The bodily life is involved in the world's false riches, which we are commissioned to manage in such a way as to gain the true and perfect riches.

If a rich man has a manager who knows that, however he may serve his master, the latter will dismiss him, leaving him with nothing, this manager

will do well if, during his management of the other's riches, he treats people well. Then, even though his master dismiss him, those whom he has benefited will receive him and sustain him. So also must men act as to the bodily life. The bodily life is that wealth, not one's own, which is given to one to manage for a time. If men will rightly use this wealth, which is not their own, then they will gain true wealth, really their own.

If we do not give up our falsely-held riches, then the true life will not be given to us. The illusory life of the body, and the life of the spirit, cannot both be served. One cannot serve property and God. What is honourable with men, is abomination before God. Riches are evil before God. A rich man is continually guilty, in that he eats abundantly and luxuriously, while at his door the poor starve. And everyone knows that the property which one will not share to others, is held in non-fulfilment of the Father's will.

Once Jesus was approached by an orthodox and rich ruler, who began to boast that he had fulfilled all the commandments of the law. Jesus reminded him that there is a commandment to love others as oneself, and that this is the Father's will. The ruler said he kept this also. Then Jesus said to him: "That is not true; if you desire to fulfil the Father's will, you would not have property. A man cannot fulfil the will of the Father, if he has a fortune of his own, which he does not give away to others."

And Jesus said to the disciples: "Men think it

impossible to live without property, but I tell you, true life is in the giving up of one's own to others."

A man, Zacchæus by name, heard the teaching of Jesus, and believed it, and having invited Jesus to his house, he said to him: "I am giving half my fortune to the poor, and I will restore four times over to those whom I may have wronged." And Jesus said: "Here is a man who fulfils the Father's will; for the fulfilment of that will is not a matter of finding an opportunity, but the whole life must go in fulfilment."

Goodness cannot be measured in any way. It is impossible to say who has done more good, and who less. A widow who gives away her last farthing gives more than a rich man who gives thousands. It is also impossible to measure goodness by utility or inutility.

As an instance of how goodness must be shown, take the woman who pitied Jesus, and in her emotion poured upon him many pounds' worth of costly oil. Judas said she had done foolishly, because many people might have been fed on the price. But Judas was a thief; he spoke untruth, and in talking of the worldly value of the oil, he did not consider the poor. Not utility, not value, comes into the question, but the necessity of always, every minute, loving others, and giving up to them one's own.

CHAPTER VII

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

*The true food of everlasting life is the fulfilment of the
Father's will*

(“Give us this day our daily bread”)

ANSWERING the Jews' demands for proofs of the truth of his teaching, Jesus said: “The truth of my teaching is proved in the fact that I teach, not in my own name, but in the name of the common Father of all men. I teach that which is good in the sight of the Father of all men, and is therefore good for all men.

“Do as I say; fulfil the five commandments, and you will see that the truth is as I say. Fulfilment of these five commandments will drive away all the world's evil; therefore it must be that they are true and right. Clearly, he who teaches, not his own personal will, but the will of Him who sent him, will teach the truth. The Mosaic law teaches the fulfilment of men's own wills, and is therefore full of contradictions; but my teaching is to fulfil the will of the Father and therefore in it all is harmonious.”

The Jews did not understand him, and looked

for external proofs as to whether he himself were the Christ written of in the prophecies. On this he said to them: "Do not inquire who I am, whether it is of me your prophecies speak, but attend to my teaching, to what I say of our common Father. It is not necessary to inquire about outside matters, as to whence I come; but my teaching must be followed. He who will follow my teaching will obtain true life. There can be no proofs of my teaching. It is the light itself, and as you cannot illuminate light, so you cannot prove the truth of truth. My teaching is light; he who sees it has light and life, and has no need of proofs. But he who is in darkness, must come to the light."

But again the Jews asked him who he was, as to his bodily personality. He said to them: "I am, as I told you from the first, a man, the Son of the Father of life. Only he who will so regard himself (this is the truth I teach), and will fulfil the will of the common Father, only he will cease to be a slave, and become a free man. Because we are slaves only through the error which considers the bodily life as the real life. He who will understand the truth, that life consists only in the fulfilment of the Father's will, only he will become free and immortal. Just as a bond-servant in a master's house is not there for ever, but the son does remain, so the man who lives the life of a slave of the flesh does not remain in life for ever; but he who in spirit fulfils the Father's will, remains in life for ever. To understand me, you must understand

that my Father is not that which is your Father, what you call God. Your Father is a God of the flesh; but my Father is the Spirit of life. Your Father, your God, is a God of revenge, a murderer, one who executes men; but my Father gives life. Therefore we are children of different Fathers."

"I am following the truth, and you wish to kill me for that, to please your God. Your God is the devil, the source of evil; and in serving him, you serve the devil. But my teaching is, that we are the sons of the Father of life, and that he who believes in my teaching shall not see death."

The Jews asked: "How can a man not die, when all the most God-pleasing men, even Abraham, are dead? How, then, can you say that you, and those that believe your teaching, will not die?" To this, Jesus answered: "I speak not by my own authority. I speak of the one source of life, Whom you call God, and Who is in men. This source I know, I cannot help knowing, and I know His will, and I fulfil it; and of this source of life I say, that it was, and is, and shall be, being deathless."

The demand for proof of Jesus' teaching is like a demand made upon a once-blind man, to give proofs of how and why he sees light. The blind man whose sight was restored, still the same man he was before, can only say, he was blind, but now sees. Just this, and nothing else, can one answer who formerly did not understand the meaning of life, but now does understand. Such a man will say that he did not, before, know the true good in life, but now he knows. The once-blind man,

when told he is cured not according to rule, and that he who cured him is the evil-doer, and that he must be cured in another way, can only reply, that he knows nothing as to the correctness of the manner of cure, or as to the faultiness of his healer, or as to there being a better way of cure, but that he knows only, he was blind, and now sees. And just so, he who grasps the meaning of this doctrine, that the true good is to fulfil the Father's will, can say nothing as to the regularity of the teaching, or as to the possibility of gaining something better. He will say: "Formerly I did not see the meaning of life; now I see. I know no more."

And Jesus said: "My teaching is the awakēning of the life which has so far slept; he who will believe my teaching, shall awaken to eternal life, and continue to live after death. My teaching is not proved in any way, except that men give themselves up to it, because it alone has the promise of life for men.

"Sheep follow the shepherd, who gives them food and life; and in the same way, men accept my teaching because it gives life to all. And as the sheep do not follow the thief who climbs over into the fold, but throw themselves aside from him, so men, also, cannot accept the doctrines which teach violence and putting-to-death.

"My teaching is a door to the sheep, and all who will follow me shall find true life. As those only are good shepherds who own and like the sheep, and devote their lives to them, while the mere

hirelings, who have no liking for sheep, are bad shepherds; so, also, only that teacher is true who does not look after himself, and he is bad who cares only about himself. My teaching is, that a man shall not look after himself, but shall yield up the life of the body for the life of the spirit. This I teach and fulfil."

Still the Jews did not understand, and persisted in looking for proofs as to whether or not Jesus was the Christ, to determine whether they should believe in him or not. They said: "Do not torment us, but tell us frankly, are you the Christ, or not?" Then Jesus answered them: "Belief must be given, not to words, but to deeds. By the deeds I teach you may know whether I teach truth or not. Do as I do, and do not trifle over words. Fulfil the will of the Father, and then you will all join with me and with the Father, because I am a Son of Man, and at one with the Father. And I am that which you call God, and I call Father. God and I are one. Even in your own writings it is said, that God said to men, 'You are Gods.' Everyone, by his spirit, is son of this Father. And if a man lives fulfilling the will of the Father, then he becomes at one with the Father. If I fulfil the will, the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

After this, Jesus asked the disciples how they understood his teaching as to the Son of Man. Simon Peter answered him: "Your teaching is that you are the Son of the God of life; that God is the life of the spirit in man." And Jesus said

to him: "Not only I am a son, but all men are; and this is revealed to men, not by me, but by the common Father of men. Upon this knowledge is based the true life of man. To this life there is no death."

CHAPTER VIII

LIFE IS NOT TEMPORAL

Therefore true life is to be lived in the present

(“**Τhis day**”)

DEALING with the disciples' question as to the recompense for surrendering the life of the body, Jesus said: “To him who enters into the reality of this teaching, no further recompense can be given; because, first, when a man yields up friends and goods for the sake of this teaching, he gains a hundred times more friends and goods; and second, a man who seeks such recompense wants to have something over and above others, which is entirely contrary to the fulfilment of the Father's will.” In the Kingdom of Heaven there is neither great nor small; all are equal. Those who look for something extra as reward for their goodness, are like the labourers who claimed a greater payment than that for which they had agreed with their employer; merely because, in their opinion, they were more deserving than other labourers. There are no rewards, punishments, degradations, or exaltations, for him who understands this teaching. No one can be higher or lower, more or less im-

portant, than another, according to the teaching of Jesus.

All can equally fulfil the Father's will. Therefore, in so doing, no one becomes superior, truer or better, than another.

Kings and those who serve them, they only are measured by such standards. By my teaching, said Jesus, there can be no superior rank, because he who would excel, must serve everybody; for the teaching is, that life is given to man, not that others may serve him, but that he may give his whole life to serve others, but he who will not do this, but seeks to exalt himself, shall fall lower than he was.

To get rid of all ideas of rewards and of one's elevation, the meaning, purpose, of life must be understood. That lies in fulfilling the will of the Father; and the will of the Father is, that that which He gave shall be returned to Him. As a shepherd leaves his flock, and goes to look for the lost sheep, as a woman will search everywhere to find a lost penny, so also the Father's continual work is manifested to us in His drawing to Himself that which pertains to Him.

We must understand the true life, what it is. The true life is brought to light always in the lost being brought back to where they belong; in the awakening of those who slept. People who have the true life, who are restored to the source of their being, cannot, like worldly men, take account of others as better or worse; but, being sharers of the Father's life, they can take delight

only in the return of the lost to their Father. If a son, who has gone astray and left his father, should repent, and return, how then could the other sons of the same father grudge at the father's joy, or themselves not rejoice at the brother's return?

To lead us to believe the teaching, and to alter one's way of living, and fulfil the teaching, we need, not external proofs, not promises of reward, but a clear understanding of what the true life is. If men think they are complete masters of their own lives, and that life is given them for bodily enjoyment, then clearly, any sacrifice made for another will seem to them an act worthy of reward, and without such payment they will yield nothing. A man demands rents from tenants who have forgotten that their ground is theirs on condition that they give up the fruits to the owner; and when he demands the rent again and again, they seek to kill him. So with the men who think themselves masters of their own lives, not discerning that life is given by true understanding; men who demand the fulfilment of their own wills.

Both belief and action are necessary, to learn that a man can do nothing of himself, and if he give up his bodily life to serve goodness, he deserves neither thanks nor reward. We must understand that, in doing good, a man only does his duty, does what he must necessarily do. Only by so understanding his life, can a man have faith to enable him to do deeds of true goodness.

Precisely in such an understanding of life, the

Kingdom of Heaven consists. This Kingdom is invisible ; it cannot be pointed out as identified with this or that place. The Kingdom of Heaven is in the human understanding. The whole society of the world goes on living as of old ; men eat, drink, marry, trade, die, and along with this, in the souls of men, lives the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the understanding of life, growing from itself, like a tree in the spring.

The true life of the fulfilment of the Father's will is not in the life of the past, or of the future, but it is the life of now, the life which all must live at this instant of time. Therefore one must never relax the true life in them. Men are set to watch over life, not of the past or the future, but the life now being lived ; and in that, to fulfil the will of the Father of all men. If they let this life escape them, by not fulfilling the Father's will, then they will not receive it back again ; just as a watchman, set upon a night-long watch, does not perform his duty if he fall asleep even for a moment ; for in this moment a thief may come.

Therefore a man must concentrate his strength in the present hour, for in this hour only can he fulfil the Father's will. And that will is life and blessing for all men. Only those live who are doing good. Good done to men, now, in this hour, is life, life which unites us with the common Father.

CHAPTER IX

TEMPTATIONS

*The illusions of temporal life conceal from men
the true life in the present*

(“**F**orgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”)

MAN is born with knowledge of the true life of fulfilment of the Father’s will. Children live by that knowledge; through them we may see what the Father’s will is. To understand the teaching of Jesus, one must understand the life of children, and be like them.

Children always live in the Father’s will, not breaking the five commandments. They would not come to break them if their elders did not mislead them. In misleading children to break those commandments, men ruin the children. In misleading them, men are doing as they would do by fastening a millstone to a man’s neck and throwing him into the water.

If there were no temptations, the world would be happy. The world is unhappy by them only. These temptations are wrong-doing which men enact for imaginary gain to the life in time. Temptations ruin men; therefore it is necessary

to give up everything rather than fall into temptation.

Temptation against the first commandment leads men to consider themselves in the right against others, and others as in the wrong, debtors to them. To avoid this temptation, men must remember that all men are always infinitely in debt to the Father, and they can only clear themselves of this debt by forgiving their brother-men.

Therefore men must overlook injuries, and not be deterred though the offender again and again injure them. However many times a man may be injured, he must forgive, and still forgive, not remembering the wrong. For the Kingdom of Heaven is forgiveness.

If we do not forgive, we are doing as the debtor did. This debtor, greatly owing, came to him in whose power he was, and began to ask for mercy. The other forgave him all. The debtor went away, and began himself to squeeze a debtor, who owed him but a little. Now, to gain life, we must fulfil the Father's will. And we pray the Father to forgive us, that we have not duly fulfilled his will, and we hope to be forgiven. What, then, are we doing, if we do not ourselves forgive? We are doing to others what we dread for ourselves.

The will of the Father is well-being, and evil is that which separates us from the Father. Why, then, should we not strive to quench evil right-away, when evil ruins us, and takes our life?

Temptation against the second commandment is, to think that woman is created for bodily pleasure,

and that in leaving one woman and taking another, heightened pleasure is gained. To avoid this temptation, we must remember that the Father's will is, not that man should amuse himself with woman's charms, but that every man, with his wife, should be one body. The Father's will is, for every man, one wife; for every wife, one husband. If one man keep to one wife, then there is wife or husband for each one who needs. Therefore he who changes the woman he lives with, deprives her of a husband, and tempts some other man to leave his wife and take the deserted one. A man may do without a wife, but he must not have more than one, because if he does, he goes against the will of the Father, which is, that one man unite with one woman.

Temptation against the third commandment is, for men to create, for the protection of the temporal life, authoritative powers, and to demand from each other oaths, pledges, to do the deeds those powers demand. To avoid this temptation, men must remember that they are not indebted for their life to any power but God. The claims of authority must be regarded as violence; and, following the commandment regarding the non-resistance of evil, men must yield what the authorities demand, namely, their goods and labour; but they cannot, either by oaths or promises, pledge their conduct. Oaths, being imposed, make men bad. He who recognises life in the will of the Father cannot bind his actions by pledges; because for such a man there is nothing more sacred than his own life.

Temptation against the fourth commandment is,

for men to hold that, by giving themselves up to animosity and revenge, they can exterminate evil from among themselves. If a man injure another, men think he should be punished, and that justice lies in human judgments. To be free from this temptation, we must remember that men are called, not to judge, but to save each other. To judge of another's injustice is impossible for men, as they themselves are full of wickedness. The only thing open to them is to teach others by example of goodness, forgiveness, and purity.

Temptation against the fifth commandment is, for man to think there is a difference between one's own countrymen and men of other nations; and that it is therefore necessary to make defence against other nations, and to injure them. To avoid this temptation, it is necessary to know that all the commandments are summed up in this one, of fulfilling the will of the Father who gives life and well-being to all men; and therefore it is necessary to do good to all men, without distinction. Even though others still make such distinctions, and though nations who look on each other as aliens are at war, nevertheless, everybody who would fulfil the Father's will must do good to all men, even to those who belong to another nation which is at war.

To avoid falling into any delusions of men, we must not think about bodily affairs, but about spiritual. To him who has understood that life consists in being, at this moment, in the Father's will, neither deprivations, nor suffering, nor death,

can be dreadful. Only he obtains true life who is, at every moment, ready to give up his bodily life in order to fulfil the Father's will.

And that all may understand the true life to be one in which there is no death, Jesus said : " Eternal life must not be understood to be like this present life. For the true life in the Father's will, there is neither space nor time. Those who are awakened to the true life, live in the will of the Father, for which there is no space nor time ; and they live with the Father. Though they die to us, they live to God. Therefore one commandment includes in itself all others ; the commandment, namely, to love, with all our strength, the source of life ; and consequently to love all men, each of whom bears in himself this same original."

And Jesus said : " This source of life is that very Christ which you await. The comprehension of this source of life, which knows no distinction of persons, no time, no place, is the Son of Man which I teach. Anything which hides this source of life from men is temptation. There is the temptation of the scribes, bookmen, and of the materialists ; do not yield thereto. There are the temptations of authority ; do not yield thereto. And there is the most terrible temptation, from the teachers of religion who call themselves orthodox. Beware of this last more than of all others ; because just they, these self-ordained teachers, by inventing the worship of a false God, decoy you from the true God. They, instead of serving the Father of life by deeds, substitute words, and they teach words,

while they themselves do nothing. Therefore you can learn nothing from them but words. But the Father requires deeds, not words. And they have nothing to teach, because they themselves know nothing; but for their own gain they must parade as teachers. But you know that no man can be the teacher of another. There is one teacher for all—the Lord of life—understanding. And these self-assuming teachers, thinking to teach others, deprive themselves of true life, and prevent others from the understanding of it. They teach that their God will be pleased with external ceremonies; and they think they can bring men to serve religion by vows. They are concerned with appearances only. An outward assumption of religion suffices them, but they do not care what is in the hearts of men. Therefore they are like elaborate coffins, very nice outside, but within full of repulsiveness. They give honour, in words, to saints and martyrs, but they are themselves just the very men who have murdered and tortured in the past, and who murder and torture the saints of to-day. By them come all the world's temptations; because, under the guise of good, they teach evil. The temptation they create is the root of all others, because they defile that which is most sacred. For a long time yet they will not be changed, but will continue their deceptions, and increase evil in the world. But there shall come a time when all the temples will be ruined, with all the external God-worship; when all men will understand, and unite in love, to serve the one Father of life, by fulfilling His will."

CHAPTER X

THE WARFARE WITH TEMPTATION

Therefore, not to fall by temptation, we must, at every moment of life, be at one with the Father

(“Lead us not into temptation”)

THE Jews saw that the teaching of Jesus would destroy their State, religion, and nationality, and at the same time they saw they could not controvert him; so they decided to kill him. His innocence and justness stood in their way, but the high priest Caiaphas discovered a reason for killing Jesus, though innocent. Caiaphas said: “We need not consider whether this man is just or unjust; we have to determine whether our Jewish people shall remain a separate nation, or whether we shall be broken up and dispersed: the nation will perish, and the people be scattered, if we leave this man alone, and do not put him to death.” This argument settled the matter, and the orthodox sentenced Jesus to death. They instructed the people to seize upon him as soon as he might appear in Jerusalem.

Jesus, although he knew about this, nevertheless, on the feast of the Passover, came to Jerusalem. His disciples entreated him not to do so; but he

said: "What these orthodox can do to me, and all that other men can do, cannot alter the truth for me. If I have the light, I know where I am, and which way I am going. Only he who does not know the truth can fear anything, or can doubt anything. Only he who cannot see, stumbles." And he went to Jerusalem stopping on the way at Bethany.

When he left Bethany, and went to Jerusalem, crowds of people met and followed him. This still more convinced the orthodox of the need to kill him. They only wanted an opportunity to seize him. He knew also that the lightest incautious word from him at that time, spoken against the law, would be a reason for his execution; but notwithstanding this, he entered the temple, and declared again that the worship of the Jews, with their sacrifices and libations, was false, and he declared his teaching. But his teaching, based on the prophets, was such that the orthodox could not yet find a palpable breach of the law which would justify them in putting him to death; the more so that the greater part of the lower class was with Jesus.

At the feast were certain heathen, who, having heard of the teaching of Jesus, wished to talk with him about it. The disciples, hearing of this, were afraid, fearing lest Jesus, in talking with them, should betray himself, and excite the people. At first they would not bring Jesus and these heathen together; but afterwards they resolved to tell him these men wanted to see him. Hearing this, Jesus

was disturbed. He well knew that his speech to the heathen would clearly show his antagonism to the whole Jewish law, would turn the crowd from him, and would give the orthodox a reason to accuse him of being in league with the hated heathen. Jesus became disturbed, knowing this; but he also knew that his mission was to make clear to men, the children of one Father, their real unity, despite differences of religion. He knew that the step he was about to take would end his bodily life, for the sake of giving birth to spiritual results. He said: "He who holds fast to the bodily life is deprived of the true one; and he who is not careful for the bodily life obtains the true life. I am troubled by what is before me, but I have only lived that I might reach this hour; how, then, can I fail to now do what I must do? So let the Father's will be shown through me now."

And turning to the people, heathen and Jews, Jesus declared openly what he had only privately told to Nicodemus. He said: "Men's lives, with all their various religions and organised powers, must be wholly changed. All power and authority must disappear. It is only necessary to understand the nature of man as the son of the Father of life, and this understanding abolishes all division among men, and all ruling power, and makes men one."

The Jews said: "You wholly destroy our religion. Our law looks to the Christ, but you speak only of the Son of Man, and say that he must be set up. What do you mean?" He answered

them: "To set up the Son of Man means to live by the light of the understanding which is in men, to follow this light into more light. I teach no new faith, only that which everyone may know within himself. Every man knows he has life, given to him and to all men by the Father of life. My teaching is only this, that man must live the life given by the Father to all."

Many of the humbler kind of people believed Jesus. But the notable and official classes disbelieved; because they did not want to consider the universal basis of what he said, but only its immediate and temporary bearings. They saw that he turned the people from themselves, and they wished to kill him; but they were afraid to seize him openly, and did not seek to do so in Jerusalem and in the daytime, but secretly elsewhere."

And one of the twelve disciples, Judas Iscariot, approached the authorities, and him they bribed to take their emissaries to Jesus when he should be away from the people. Judas promised this, and went again to Jesus, awaiting a suitable opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of the feast, Jesus and his disciples kept the Passover. And Judas, thinking Jesus was not aware of his treachery, was with them. But Jesus knew Judas had sold him. And as they all sat at table, Jesus took bread, broke it in twelve pieces, and gave a piece to each disciple, including Judas with the rest. And not mentioning any name, he said: "Take, eat my body." Then he took the cup with the wine, passed it to them, for

them all, including Judas, to drink from, and said : " One of you will shed my blood. Drink my blood."

Afterwards Jesus got up, and began to wash the feet of all his disciples, including Judas. And having finished, he said : " I know that one of you will betray me to my death, and shed my blood ; but him I have fed, and given to drink, and washed his feet. I have done this to show you how you must act towards those who do you harm. If you will act in this way, you shall be blessed." And the disciples went on to ask who the betrayer was. But Jesus did not give his name, so that they might not turn on him. And when it had grown dark, Jesus showed that it was Judas, and at the same time told him to go away. Judas got up from the table and went off, no one hindering him.

Then Jesus said : " This is the meaning of setting up the Son of Man. To set up the Son of Man is to be like the Father, good ; and that, not only to those who love us, but to all men, even to those who do us harm. And therefore do not argue over my teaching, do not pick it to pieces as the orthodox did, but do as I have done ; do as I have done under your eyes. This one commandment I give you : Love men. My whole teaching is, to love men always, and to the last."

After this, fear came over Jesus, and he went in the dark with his disciples to a garden, to be out of the way. While walking, he said to them : " You are all wavering and timid ; if they move to take me, you will all run away." To this, Peter said : " No, I will never leave you ; I will defend you even to

death." And all the disciples said so. Then Jesus said: "If that be the case, then get ready for defence; take provision, because we must hide, take weapons, to fight for ourselves." The disciples said they had two swords.

When Jesus heard this about the swords, anguish came over him. And going to a vacant place, he began to pray, and entreated his disciples to do the same. But the disciples did not understand his state of mind. Jesus said: "My Father, the Spirit, end in me this struggle with temptation. Strengthen me to the fulfilment of Thy will. I do not want my own way. I do not want to defend my bodily life. I want to do Thy will, in not resisting evil."

The disciples still did not understand. And he said to them: "Do not consider the concerns of the body, but try to rise into the spirit; strength is in the spirit, but the flesh is powerless." And a second time he said: "My Father, if suffering must be, then let it come. But even in suffering, I want one thing only: that not my will shall be fulfilled, but thine." The disciples did not understand. And again he struggled with the temptation; and at last conquered it. Coming to the disciples, he said: "It is settled now; you can be at rest. I shall not fight, but shall surrender myself into the hands of the men of this world."

CHAPTER XI

THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE

The self-life is an illusion which comes through the flesh, an evil. The true life is the life common to all men

(“*Deliver us from evil*”)

JESUS, finding himself prepared for death, went to give himself up. Peter stopped him, and asked: “Where are you going?” Jesus answered: “I am going where you cannot go. I am ready for death, and you are not yet ready.” Peter said: “No, I am even now ready to sacrifice my life for thee.” Jesus said to him: “A man cannot promise anything.”

And he said to all his disciples: “I know death is before me, but I believe in the life of the Father, and therefore am not afraid of it. Do not be distressed over my death, but believe in the real God, in the Father of life, and then my death will not seem dreadful to you. If I am united with the Father of life, then I cannot be deprived of life. It is true, I do not tell you what and where my life will be, after death, but I point out to you the way to true life. My teaching does not reveal what that life is to be, but it reveals the only true way

of life. That is, to be in unity with the Father. The Father is the source of life. My teaching is, that man shall live in the will of the Father, and fulfil His will for the life and well-being of all men.

“Your teacher, when I am gone, will be your knowledge of the truth. In fulfilling my teaching, you will always feel that you are in the truth, that the Father is in you, and you are in the Father. And knowing in yourselves the Father of life, you will experience a peace of which nothing will deprive you. And therefore, if you know the truth and live in it, neither my death nor your own can trouble you.

“Men think of themselves as separate beings, each with his own power of will in life; but this is only an illusion. The only true life is that which recognises the Father’s will as the source of life. My teaching reveals this oneness of life, and represents life, not as separate shoots, but as one tree, on which all the shoots grow. Only he who lives in the Father’s will, like a shoot of a tree, only he lives; and he who wishes to live by his own will, dies away like a torn-off shoot.

“The Father gave me life to do good, and I have taught you to live to do good. If you will fulfil my commandment, you will be blessed. The commandment which sums up my whole teaching is no more than this, that all men shall love one another. And love is to sacrifice one’s own bodily life for another’s sake. Love has no other definition. In fulfilling my commandment of love, you will not fulfil it like slaves, who follow the orders of a

master without understanding them; but you will live as free men, as I am, because I have made clear to you the purpose of life, which follows from the knowledge of the Father of life. You have adopted my teaching, not from accidental choice, but because it is the only truth by which men are made free.

“The teaching of the world is to do evil to men; but I teach that men love each other. Therefore the world will despise you, as it has despised me. The world does not understand my teaching, and therefore will persecute you, and do you evil, thinking thereby to serve God. Do not be astonished at this; you must understand that it is necessarily so. The world, not understanding the true God, must persecute you; but you must affirm the truth.

“You grieve because they will kill me; but they kill me for declaring the truth. And therefore my death is necessary for the declaration of the truth. My death, in facing which I do not go back from the truth, will strengthen you, and you will understand the nature of untruth and of truth. You will understand that untruth lies in men’s belief in the bodily life, and their disbelief in the life of the spirit; that truth consists in unity with the Father, from which results the victory of the spirit over the flesh.

“Even when I shall not be with you in the bodily life, my spirit will be with you. But you, like all men, will not always feel within you the power of the spirit. Sometimes you will relax and lose strength of spirit; and you will fall into tempta-

tion ; and at times you will again awaken to the true life. Hours of bondage to the body will come upon you, but for a time only ; you will suffer, and again be restored to the spirit, like a woman who suffers birth-pangs, and then has joy because she has brought a human being into the world. So will your experience be, when, after falling under the power of the body, you rise again by the spirit. You will then feel such joy, that nothing will be left for you to desire. Know this, then, beforehand ; and in spite of persecution, in spite of internal struggle and casting down of spirit, know that the spirit lives in you, and that the only true God is the knowledge of the Father's will, as I have revealed it."

And addressing the Father, the Spirit, Jesus said : " I have done that which Thou hast commanded me ; I have revealed to men that Thou art the source of everything. And they have understood me. I have taught them that they all come from the source of infinite life, and therefore they are all one ; and that as the Father is in me, and I am in the Father, so they, too, are one with me and the Father. I have revealed to them also, that, like Thee, who in love hast sent them into the world, they, too, shall with love live in the world."

CHAPTER XII

THE VICTORY OF THE SPIRIT OVER THE FLESH

Therefore, for him who lives, not the self-life, but a common life in the will of the Father, there is no death. Bodily death is for him union with the Father

(“*Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory*”)

WHEN Jesus had ended his discourse to the disciples, he rose, and, instead of running away or defending himself, he went on the way to meet Judas, who was bringing soldiers to take him. Jesus came to Judas, and asked him, why he had come. But Judas did not answer, and a crowd of soldiers came round Jesus. Peter threw himself forward to defend his teacher, and, drawing his sword, began to fight. But Jesus stopped him, and said to him, that he who fights with a sword must himself perish with the sword, and ordered him to put up the sword. Then Jesus said to those who had come to take him: “I have up to now gone about among you alone, without fear, and I do not fear now. Do as you choose.”

And while all the disciples ran away, Jesus was left alone. The officer of the soldiers ordered Jesus to be bound, and led before Annas. This

Annas was a former high priest, and lived in the same house with Caiaphas, who was then high priest. Caiaphas it was who provided the reason upon which they decided to kill Jesus; namely, that if he were not killed the nation would disappear.

Jesus, feeling himself to be in the will of the Father, was ready for death, and did not resist when they took him, and was not afraid when they led him away. But the very Peter who had just promised Jesus that he would not renounce him, but would die for him, this same Peter who wished to protect him,—now, when he saw that they were taking Jesus for execution, and being met with the door-keeper's question, Whether he was not with Jesus? gave up, and deserted him. It was only afterwards that, hearing the cock crow, Peter brought to mind all that Jesus had said. Then he understood that there are two temptations of the flesh, fear and fighting; and that it was with these that Jesus struggled when he prayed in the garden, and asked the disciples to pray. And now he, Peter, had fallen before both these temptations of the flesh, of which Jesus had forewarned him; he had wished to fight against evil, and to defend the truth, he had been about to strike and to do evil himself; and now he could not endure the fear of bodily suffering, and had renounced his teacher. Jesus had yielded neither to the temptation to fight, when the disciples got ready two swords for his defence, nor to the temptation to fear before the men of Jerusalem, first, in the case of the heathen,

and now before the soldiers, who had bound him and led him to trial.

Jesus was taken before Caiaphas. Caiaphas began to question him about his teaching. But knowing that Caiaphas was examining him, not to find out what his teaching was, but only to convict him, Jesus did not answer, but said: "I have concealed nothing, and now conceal nothing. If you wish to know what my teaching is, ask those who heard and understood it." For saying this, the high priest's servant struck Jesus in the face, and Jesus asked him why he so beat him. But the man did not answer him, and the high priest continued the trial. Witnesses were brought, who deposed that Jesus had boasted that he made an end of the Jewish religion. And the high priest interrogated Jesus; who, seeing they did not examine him to learn anything, but only to make a show of a judicial trial, answered nothing.

Then a priest asked him: "Tell me, are you the Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus said: "Yes, I am the Christ, the Son of God; and now, in torturing me, you will see how a Son of Man is like to God." And the priest was glad to hear these words, and said to the other judges: "Are not these words enough to condemn him?" And the judges said: "That is enough; we sentence him to death." And when they said that, the people threw themselves upon Jesus, and began to beat him, to spit in his face, and insult him. He was silent.

The Jews had no power to punish men with death, and for that needed permission from the

Roman governor. Therefore, having condemned Jesus in their court, and having subjected him to ignominy, they took him to the Roman governor, Pilate, that he might execute him. Pilate asked why they wished to kill Jesus. They said, because he was a criminal. Pilate said that if he was so, they must judge him by their own law. They said: "We want you to put him to death, because he is guilty before the Roman Cæsar; he is a rebel, he agitates the people, he forbids payment of taxes to Cæsar, and calls himself the Jewish king."

Pilate summoned Jesus before him, and said: "What is the meaning of this; are you the Jewish king?"

Jesus said: "Do you really wish to know what my kingdom means. or are you only asking for form's sake?"

Pilate answered: "I am not a Jew, and it is the same to me whether you are the Jewish king or not; but I ask you, who are you, and why do they call you king?"

Jesus said: "They say truly, that I call myself a king. I am indeed a king, but my kingdom is not of earth, but of heaven. The kings of the earth war and fight, and have armies; but as for me,—you see they have bound and beaten me, and I did not resist. I am king from heaven: my power is of the spirit."

Pilate said: "Then it is indeed true that you think yourself a king?"

Jesus answered: "You know this yourself. Everyone who lives by the spirit is free. I live

by this only, and I only teach by shewing men the truth, that they are free by the spirit."

Pilate said: "You teach the truth, but nobody knows what truth is, and everyone has his own truth."

And having said this, he turned his back on Jesus, and went again to the Jews. Coming out to them, he said: "I find nothing criminal in this man. Why, then, put him to death?"

The priests answered: "He ought to be put to death, because he incites the people."

Then Pilate began to examine Jesus before the priests; but Jesus, seeing it was only a mock inquiry, answered nothing. Then Pilate said: "I alone cannot condemn him; take him to Herod."

At Herod's tribunal, Jesus again answered nothing to the accusations of the priests; and Herod, thinking Jesus to be a common fellow, ordered him, for mockery, to be dressed in red clothes, and sent back to Pilate.

Pilate pitied Jesus, and began to entreat the priests to forgive him, if only on account of the feast. But the priests did not consent, and all—the people with them—cried out to crucify Christ. Pilate tried a second time to persuade them to let Jesus go; but priests and people cried out that he must be executed. They said: "He is guilty of calling himself the Son of God." Pilate again summoned Jesus, and asked him what he meant by calling himself the Son of God. Jesus answered nothing.

Then Pilate said: "Why do you not answer me,

seeing that I have power to execute you or to set you free?"

Jesus answered: "You have no authority over me; authority only comes from on high."

And Pilate a third time began to persuade the Jews to set Jesus free. But they said to him: "If you will not execute this man, whom we have exposed as an enemy to Cæsar, then you yourself are not a friend, but an enemy to Cæsar."

And hearing these words, Pilate gave way, and ordered the execution of Jesus. They first stripped him and flogged him; then they dressed him again in a ridiculous way. And they beat him, mocked him, and insulted him. Then they caused him to carry the cross, and led him to the place of execution, where they crucified him.

And as Jesus hung on the cross, the whole populace mocked him. But to this mockery Jesus answered: "Father! do not call them to account; they do not know what they are doing." And then, as he was now drawing near death, he said: "Father! I yield my spirit into Thy care."

And bowing his head, he breathed his last.

THE END

*Note upon Matt. xvii. 24-25, as to Payment of
Taxes (see page 117).*

In the third part (now preparing for press) of *The Four Gospels Harmonised and Translated*, the Author renders the above passage thus :

“ When they were come to Capernaum, the collectors of the double-drachm came to Peter, and said : Thy master does not pay the double-drachm. And he said : Yes.”

This rendering, the Author accompanies with the remark :

“ I have substituted a full-stop for the note of interrogation generally placed at the end of verse 24. The construction of the sentence is not interrogative, and the verb is in the present tense. The tax-collectors ask no question, but positively say, ‘ Your master does not pay the tax.’ ”

So that Peter simply confirms the statement, that Jesus does not pay taxes.

This explanation of a novel reading of the Gospel text may serve as an example of numerous other explanations, to be found in the larger work, *The Four Gospels Harmonised and Translated*.

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