

Who May Become a Disciple?

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Now our subject this morning, I will not keep you long, is: "Who May Become a Disciple?" "Who May Become a Disciple?"

Well, I think we should discuss just for a moment or two the word "disciple." I looked that word up and one meaning is, "he who follows a teacher, who accepts and follows a teacher, or a doctrine." Now that's the ordinary understanding of a disciple. But to me the real meaning and understanding of discipleship is that a disciple, a true disciple, is "one who follows God," "one who follows God."

Many times the Master said that. In spite of his realization and his oneness with God, which he had and does have now, he said when leaving Boston – of course we were gonna miss him – he said, "Never mind what happens to me." "Never mind what happens to me, that Light which you see is far greater than I am. That is God Himself." And so, there is only one Guru, and that's God, and the greater the saint, if we can classify them that way, the surer they are to say, "I am nothing, God is all." And so, the Master said that. He said, "Never mind what happens to me." God alone is reality. He is with you. He is the One Great Guru. And he was the most humble, the Master was most humble, because the more you realize there is One Reality, God Himself, the more humble you become, because the ego cannot stay, if you have realization of God, the ego has left.

And so, realize, who may become a disciple? Anyone, anyone who knows the Presence of God, and follows God. Master often said; someone said to him in India, "I hear so-and-so is your disciple in America." He said, "They say so." And seeing the confusion on the face of the inquirer, he says, "I haven't any disciple. They're all disciples of God." How wonderful that is. And so, just realize, he who knows God may be called a disciple. Now that means you must have contact with God. There must be a relationship with you and God, between you and God, an understanding, a realization that God is in you, you are in God, there is one consciousness - God alone. Now if you have that, you may be called disciple.

But you say, "If God is silent, if He doesn't say anything, how can we know Him?" That's right. He sure is silent. He doesn't much, much of His Power, does He? Here He has made universe upon universe, I never hear a peep out of

Him. Never says a word unless you poke Him hard. Then He won't say much, but He will show you that He's watching your every move. In fact, He is your every move. And so we can say God is Silent, how can I know Him?

Well, let me give you the words of the Master in a moment, but God sends an instrument. He sends a channel. Remember that. An instrumentality through whom, through whose mind, and consciousness, and intelligence and body, and Spirituality, He speaks to you. That's the way of "all righteousness¹," as Jesus said when he allowed himself to be baptized. That's ordained by God. He doesn't talk, but He talks through His Great Instruments as the Great Ones and our beloved Master.

Now, He comes to those, through the channel, in answer to a deep prayer when you have reached the point when you realize that there's one thing you want, God alone, then He sends the channel, and don't forget it. You may be half-heartedly in your approach to God, He will not answer. But when you realize, wake up to the fact there's one thing you need and want is God alone, then He sends the Master, or the channel. Then He talks to you through the channel. That's why the channel is so important, because that's the way of all righteousness.

You can get the push from other ways, you can get the stimulation in the beginning, but it takes the Guru and your relationship with God through that channel to make that inspiration stick, and to make it become a reality. To make it become a permanent thing. That's what I found out. I found in Self-Realization that some start off with lots of enthusiasm. And I read in the papers about this Billy Graham and others, they get the Power of God, there's no question about it. And they feel the Power of God, but I'm sorry to say that they all do not retain it. Why? Because they don't have the Guru, that's why. That's why one point it came to me I hope you remember that one point. Why the Guru is so necessary. Because he makes that thing become a reality to you, if you cling to him. He makes it stick, as they say. He makes it become permanent.

When I first met the Master in Boston, and he showed me many things, by his Grace, wonderful things, then he carefully said, "If you will follow me, meditate regularly, allow me to discipline you;" I didn't know what was coming, I said, "Sure." "Allow me to discipline you, these things will be your own." Now that's

¹ Matthew 3:15, "And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

why the Guru is so important. Do you see the difference between ordinary discipleship, where you follow a teacher or teachers. They can give you the initial push, but it is ordained by God that he who shall take you to God, and present you to God, and give you God contact, where you can merge in God is the channel He has sent. That's Spiritual Law.

In the first case you use ordinary law. You can have teachers, one or many, you can get a great start, but the Higher Law must intervene late, later through the Master to take you to God. It's no easy job, and I feel it cannot be done through experience that I have had, without the Master's contact. Let us remember that one thing. In becoming a disciple, anyone can become a disciple who can contact and know God. But I must add that that contact, I feel, must come as God ordained it should come by the way of all righteousness, as Jesus said, through His channel, which He has sent to each and every one of us.

The one point I have here about when we really make up our mind we want God, and we need Him, and He alone will satisfy our needs, when that point comes, then He comes to us without question of a doubt. We have that attested to wonderfully in that verse in Daniel, which I often read to you. First in Daniel, 10th Chapter, the 12th Verse; please listen and never forget it. "Then he said unto me, ~~Fear not Daniel:~~ Fear not Daniel: from the first day that thou did set thine heart to understand...²"

When you make up your mind you need God alone, and only God, that's making up your heart to understand. The mind won't do it. The heart must understand. When you feel, "Father, I must have Thee." When you reach that point, and then when you follow it up as it says to "chasten thyself before God."³ Not sit down and do nothing, but to follow the channel God has sent, the Master's techniques, his meditations, and live it. That's chastening yourself when you do that. Then it says this: "Thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."

Isn't that wonderful? There's no excuse for any of us. Make up your mind that you need God alone. Surrender to Him fully; then do your best. That's all. The

² Daniel 10:12, "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before they God, they words were heard, and I am come for thy words."

³ Ibid.

minute you do that you have made the connection with God. That's what it means when it says, "I am come for those words (sic)."⁴ It's most wonderful.

There was a gentleman came down from L.A. [Los Angeles] not long ago to the hermitage. Very nice looking man; we were talking. Suddenly he says, "You know," he says, "I was an alcoholic." He said, "One morning I waked up and realized I needed one thing – God. Since then I haven't touched anything."

There must be that full surrender to God. When you've set your heart to understand. That's why the Master used to say "the heart must be of pure gold, no dross." When you've set your heart to understand, and put the ego out where it belongs and just before God surrender; say, "Father, there's only one thing; your Love is what I need will change me." "I must have it." When you really mean business, and then show that you mean business by following the channel that He will send. Then God takes care.

That's being a true disciple, is when you really first know that you want God, and God alone, and then chasten yourself by attaining God contact through the channel he has sent. Then you are a disciple – only then. When you contact God within you as the Holy Vibration, the Word, are you a disciple? Remember, we're not disciples of the channel, we're disciples of God. And any channel, the greater the channel is, any channel will tell you that: "I am nothing." "I have nothing." "God alone is the Great Guru." We are all disciples of God. If you know Him, if you contact Him, if you feel Him, if you have friendship with Him, then you are His disciple.

Now, going on just a little bit; listen to the Master's words. I use them; I like to use them whenever I can, because he is the authority, so to speak. He's the channel God sent to us, so whatever he has said I have found has come true. And so, I like to repeat them. Real disciples are those who follow God. Follow the channel God has sent. Now the Master says this: "The Guru is ordained by God to help the individual in response to deep prayer. He is not an ordinary teacher, but a channel, a vehicle whose body, speech, mind and Spirituality, God Himself usesd⁵"

⁴ Inner Culter, 1934, "The Second Coming of Christ," "Jesus knew that John the Baptist in a former life had been Elias (Elijah), the Guru-Preceptor of His long past incarnation. One attracts Spiritual teachers when he is desirous of Spiritual training, but a Guru, or direct messenger of God, is sent only when the disciple is extremely determined to know God. God uses the speech, mind, and wisdom of the Guru to teach and redeem the disciple."

⁵ Ibid.

That's the key. God Himself, above ordinary law or teachings. People say, "Oh, God tested me today." God didn't test you at all. The law tested you. God makes His laws, and when you follow them you have success. When you do not follow them, you have trouble. But there comes a time when the Master intervenes, the direct channel of God, when you rise above ordinary law, then, then you get a direct contact with God, and I have seen it and this is the proof. When the Master says: "He is not an ordinary teacher but a channel, a vehicle, whose body, mind and Spirituality, God Himself uses to bring lost souls back home to the home of immortality."

And so you see the difference now between the ordinary teacher with his disciples, so to speak, and the real Guru, the channel of God, whom God uses Himself. That's the difference. That's the point. And I have seen it work out. I know that there is an intervention through Higher Law when you follow a real channel of God. I have seen it work out and I can tell you by one or two stories this one point how wonderful it is that God speaks directly to us through the channel. It's most wonderful. You stop to think. Ordinarily we are subject to law, that's all; subject to law. But when we accept God and follow His channel, then the Higher Law steps in and we get a direct response and we are watched over by the Guru through all conditions.

The words of the Master's Master to him are most wonderful when he says, "I shall be your friend forever, because God asked you, asked me to bring you home." Isn't that wonderful? And so, with each and every one of us, the Master, the channel God has sent, if you accept it 100 percent, he was and is sent by God to stay with you, and bring you back home to God. That's when the Higher Law steps in. That's when the direct intervention of God's Omniscience steps in through the channel He has sent.

And so, the Guru gives you Spiritual Birth, and then watches over you until you reach God. You never thought of discipleship like that before perhaps. But that's a fact. That's when we cease to be ordinary human beings governed by law. We are children of God governed by He Himself through the Spirituality of the Guru whom He sends. And people say to me, "Well, you had the Master." "You talked to him." He was here with many people. "That's different." I said, "It is not different, because the Master Himself says 'God uses the Guru's Spirituality to bring the lost souls back home.'" What is Spirituality of a Guru? It's nothing but the Omniscience of God which he expresses. Is that circumscribed, or limited, by worldly consciousness, or body, or mind, or

intellect? No. That's why the Master is just as near, and nearer, to us right now even though he is not here in person.

So remember, if you somehow can follow God, surrender 100 percent to Him, follow the Master, you will never be left out. He will watch you. As the Master said, "he watches over you and finally takes you to God." Isn't that wonderful? Think of it. Think of it. No matter what you do, if you have that full surrender to God, He will watch you through the channel He has sent for you until finally you are taken home into His Great Light and Omniscience.

Now there is a, I have proofs of, of this thing. I'll give to you one or two as the time is short, how, how God watches you through the channel. That's the greatest thing. In the beginning when I met the Master, and I had wonderful enthusiasm, and he showed me those wonderful things, by the Grace of God, it wasn't long before the devil began to get busy, and organized evil; began to try to disrupt that wonderful relationship between us.

And one morning in my office, not long after I met the Master, I think six months. This man came in injecting thoughts, and saying certain things, which unsettled me, naturally, because I was young. And what happened? God was watching through the Master. The Master was going to Boston on a streetcar. Imagine! And he was five or six miles away from my office. He didn't know the directions then. He got out of the streetcar, and he starting walking, through intuition, and I heard heavy steps coming up the office stairs into my office. Came out into the laboratory where I was working, took me by the shoulders, and turned me around, and looked at me. He says, "Now Doctor, do you love me as much as ever?" Well, I didn't understand for a moment. I said, "Why?" He says, "What did he say?" And he named everything he said, the accusations he made, everything. The accusations he made. Everything he said. Why did he do it? He showed me, told me why, named the very words he used. I said, "I bow to you." I knew, I knew that God has protecting me and I knew the Master was the real channel. If there'd been any doubt before, it was taken away.

And then not long later, caught out in a severe storm of which I have told you. Was the Guru watching me? Was, was God watching me through the channel? Yes. He knew immediately when the danger was there, and I found out knowing, he took care of it with God and I was saved.

And then later in life, through many sicknesses and things that pointed to death in my own family, God watched. How? Through the channel of the Master, and

those things were taken away. Isn't it worthwhile, isn't it wonderful to be a disciple of God? Everyone can be, if you make the contact with God through the channel that He has sent to you.

And now, I must get along a little bit. As Jesus has said, "When I am gone, I will send you the Comforter⁶." The Master said the same thing. He said, "When I am gone there's nothing but love will take my place," and Love is God's Comforter in us; in each and every one of us. And so, he has left, the Master has left his organization of Self-Realization Fellowship, with its teachings, with its techniques, its meditations, whereby you, you can get the contact with God through the Comforter, which is within you and me and every one of us. That's what the Master has done. That's why we all feel so much for him, because he's given us the way whereby we can contact God, through his teachings, his techniques. Unless you have that contact with God, you are not a true disciple. You are not a disciple of God. But, through the Grace of the Master, and coming here, and sacrificing, he has left the channel whereby everyone, who will, can contact that Great Comforter of which Jesus spoke to his disciples, when I am gone, you will have the Comforter who will tell you all things that I have said and lead you.⁷

And so, the Master has said the same thing. He has given us direct methods whereby we can contact the Comforter. That's why he's so great. And what is the Comforter? The Comforter is the Holy Vibration within you, the Word. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God⁸." Follow the techniques of Self-Realization. You will contact that Word. Having that contact, you will go straight to God. "Make straight the way to the Lord⁹." The straight way is to contact God within you, isn't it? There's no straighter way than that. The Master has given you the way to contact God within. And in the Bible we read one passage when it says: "I am the voice crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord, [as] said the prophet Esaias¹⁰". What is the voice? The voice is the Holy Vibration. The Word is the Holy Vibration. The Word is the Comforter within you. Self-Realization will help you, without question of a doubt; will enable you to contact the Word of God. Having that

⁶ St. John 15:26, "But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ St. John 1:1

⁹ St. John 1:23, "He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

¹⁰ Ibid.

contact, you are a disciple with God, of God. If you do not have that contact, you are not a disciple of God.

And so, who may be a disciple? Those who know God; those who feel His Presence as the Holy Vibration; God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. That's the witness of God in us. Those who know and feel that, they are disciples. You have the way through Self-Realization, through the channel God has sent. There's no excuse. Everyone who does the meditations, I have found, contact the Holy Vibration within, the Light, the Sound, and the Love of God. Everyone can be a disciple who will; everyone who will, irrespective of color, class, race, or creed. Those who make the effort, to contact God within as the Word, they are disciples, and they're disciples of God. They're real disciples. And when you see that Light of the Infinite always before you, going before you, there's no joy that will equal it, because you know there's no force in the universe can touch you. Nothing can touch you, if God is with you. Be a true disciple of God.

And so, let us close by remembering Jesus' words, "Seek first." You wanna be a disciple of God "Seek (*sic*) first the kingdom of God."¹¹ That doesn't mean to throw down all your obligations and run away to the forest. No. God's got more sense than that. It means, when you get up in the morning that the first thing in your consciousness be "God, God, God," as the Master says. And then give some time to God. Make the contact, make the contact with God. Feel His Presence. Then you're a disciple of God. And what's the answer as Jesus said? The Comforter shall tell you everything you should know.¹² Everything is in God's Great Light at this point¹³ and which you can see and merge in. Everything's in His Cosmic Touch, His Sound, His Voice; everything of a Solace is in His, the love in your heart, and that's from God.

I'm gonna close by reading from the [Bhagavad] Gita about the promise to true disciples of the Lord. Get the contact, as I have said first. Get that contact. Make friends with God. Know the Storekeeper of the Universe, and this is His promise to you. First, from the Gita, 18th Discourse, 64th Line: "Listen thou again to My supreme words," supreme words, "most secret of all;" beloved thou, "beloved

¹¹ Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

¹² St. John 15:26

¹³ Between the eyebrows on the forehead

thou art of me.¹⁴ God loves us. That's the first thing to understand. The Master said, "God loves us so silently and so wonderfully and through His devotees." So, first thing, remember we are beloved of God. Then it goes on to say: "...beloved art thou of me and steadfast of heart." Full surrender to God is first necessary. "Therefore, I will speak for thy benefit. Merge thy mind in me, be my devotee."

God entreats us. Give all to God. He's the whole Doer, the Sole Doer. Merge yourself in Him. Fully surrender to Him. "...be my devotee, sacrifice thyself to me, surrender (*sic*) thyself before Me..." That's all He asks, that you recognize He is the Doer. "...surrender (*sic*) thyself before Me, thou shalt surely (*sic*) come to Me, I pledge thee My troth;¹⁵" There's God the Father pledging to us His troth. Imagine it. This is wonderful in the Gita. Then it goes on: "...thou art dear to Me." Imagine, the Master of the Universe speaking to a humble devotee. "...thou art dear to Me. Abandoning all duties," the attachment to duties, "come unto to Me alone for shelter;¹⁶"

"God is not mocked."¹⁷ If you have full faith in God, full surrender, He will never let you down. "Come alone to me for shelter; sorrow not, ~~and~~ I will liberate thee from all sin."¹⁸ What a promise. What a promise. Be a disciple of God. Be a disciple of God. Surrender to Him, that's all, through the channel He has sent, because then the law is superseded by the Higher Spiritual Law.

And I wanna close with one or two of the words of the Master about his promise for each and every one of us being an instrument of God, being an instrument of God, a channel of God ordained by Him. This is what the Master says to each and every one of us.

*"When I shall become only a memory, a mental image, or inwardly speaking voice,
When no earthly call will reveal
My whereabouts in unplumbed space,
When you are able no longer to talk to me,*

¹⁴ Bhagavad Gita, Translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939, 18th Discourse, 64th & 65th Lines, "Listen thou again to My supreme word, most secret of all; beloved art thou of Me, and steadfast of heart, therefore will I speak for thy benefit. Merge thy mind in Me, be My devotee, sacrifice to Me, prostrate thyself before Me, thou shalt come even to Me. I pledge thee My troth, thou art dear to Me."

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ 18th Discourse 65th Line, "Abandoning all duties, come unto Me alone for shelter; sorrow not, I will liberate thee from all sins"

¹⁷ Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

¹⁸ 18th Discourse 65th Line

*Read my Whispers of Eternity;
Eternally through that I will talk to you,
Unknown I will walk by your side
and guard you by invisible arms."*

The Master has promised in one of his talks, before he left, he said, "All of those who are loyal to Self-Realization, to me, and Self-Realization, and follow one hundred percent, with one hundred percent loyalty, I will reach down from heaven and lift them, that they, too, understand the Master's love, God's Love." Isn't that wonderful? There's your promise.

And finally he says: "And as soon as you know my Beloved..." As soon as you, following the techniques which I have left, make the contact with God and merge in Him.

*"As soon as you know my Beloved
And hear His voice in silence,
You will know me again more tangibly
than you knew me on this earth plane."*

Wonderful! Imagine!

*"When I am only a dream to you,
I will come to remind you that you too are naught
But a dream of my Heavenly Beloved."*

We're all one in God. And when you know you are a dream. That's the thing. When through fellowship with God, you know He is the Sole Actor, the Sole Doer, and that this little life is a dream of His, when you know that, the Master says:

*"And when you know you are a dream as I now know,
We will be ever awake in Him."*

Isn't it worth being a disciple of God? It surely is. Be a disciple of God. Make up your mind through the heart, as Daniel did, and then discipline yourself until God has to come to you, and give you His Love, and you become one with Him.