

Discipleship Today

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“Discipleship Today”

Discipleship today is just the same as it was ages ago, as it was in Jesus' time, and it will always be. I find the definition for discipleship, or who is a disciple: “one who accepts and follows a teacher, or a doctrine.” But, true disciples, or true discipleship, means, “those who follow God.” God is the Guru. God is the Great Guru. God is the Sole Doer.

And so, you can see that discipleship today must be the same as it always was, and always will be, because God does not change; times change; conditions change; and the orthodox churches want to change, because conditions are changing. But underneath it all, is the One Eternal Father – the One God, the Great Guru, our Father, your Father, my Father – who is the same, and always will be. And so, discipleship today is as it always was, and will be. And the One Guru – your Guru, my Guru, True Guru – is God Alone.

Those of you who have read the Master's little book, *The Master Said*, will read, will remember, that in the first part of it someone asked him, “Master, Dr. Lewis was your first disciple in this country, wasn't he?” And the Master said, “That's what they say.” And seeing that the questioner was a little taken back, he added, “I never say that people are my disciples. God is the Guru. They are His disciples.” Now I, someone came to me, and told me that. Someone came from India, and said, “Do you know the Master says he didn't know whether you were his disciple or not?” I understood right off what he meant. And later, this came out in this little book.

And so, many times, the Master said, “Never mind what happens to me. That Light of God, which you see, is far greater than I am. That's God Himself.” And so, realize, concerning discipleship, God is the Guru. And He's just the same, and is near you, as He was ages ago. He's just the same, and always will be.

Now, although there is One Guru, there is, without a doubt, or there are those people who, through whom, God manifests. There's no question of that. There are those who, through whom He expresses

Himself. Just like in the time of Jesus, God expressed Himself, manifested Himself, so completely in the vehicle

of Jesus. But that didn't change the fact that He was still the True Guru, because Jesus said, "I and my Father are one.¹" I can do nothing except the Father does within me.²

And so, we must realize that although there is One Guru. Still there are those who are channels through which God, as the True Guru, manifests Himself. And those channels are sometimes called gurus; meaning an instrument, a vehicle through whom the One Great Guru, God Himself, manifests to certain people at that time. That's the important point. But you ask any channel of God, any guru, and they will tell you, "I do nothing. I am nothing. If God wants to use this body, this vehicle," say the true gurus, "then, perhaps, I can do something for you." Realize that. Realize that.

And those people who take the credit of healing this, or healing that, they don't amount to anything, because God is the Healer. If He wants to come into your body, and work through you, then things can happen. If He doesn't, as the great Ramakrishna says, "you can do nothing." Most beautiful! So realize, true discipleship today means, that you and God, know each other in a personal, and dynamic way. That's true discipleship.

And so, there are those who are ordained by God, realize this, there are those who are ordained by God to come and lead the lost souls back home to their one Cosmic Home of Immortality. There are no questions about that. But they are commissioned by God, or else they have been commissioned by their previous guru, who was a channel of God. Realize those two things. Whatever path you follow, do not forget that. That unless God commissioned those channels to do this, or do that, nothing is possible, because God Alone is the Sole Doer.

Now, I have the Master's own word for this very important thing not to forget; that unless God's Power flows through the channel, nothing is accomplished – nothing real. You can help people in a material way; you can help people in a physical way; and you can see that they have a good life, and money, and so forth. But, when it comes right down to facts and reality, you cannot do one thing unless God's Power flows through you, because He is the Sole Doer.

Now, these are the Master's words, and let us never forget: "God is ordained... guru, rather, is ordained by God; guru is ordained by God to help the individual

in response to deep prayer.” How do you think you came here and contacted this channel? It just didn't happen, because, in your heart, you had a desire to know the One Guru, God; and so He responded, and sent you the channel. That's what it means. “The guru is he who was ordained by God to help the individual in response to deep prayer. He is not an ordinary teacher, but a guru, or a vehicle, whose body, whose speech, mind, and Spirituality, God Himself uses to bring the lost soul back to the Home of Immortality.” Isn't that wonderful? We must realize that in all religions, throughout the ages, God has sent these special instruments to lead the lost souls back home to God, or to their Cosmic Home. These souls, God uses in response to the prayers of people to be rid of this delusion and its trouble, and know what they really are, and from whence they have come.

One thing let me point out. The guru uses his body, his speech, his mind, plus his Spirituality to bring those lost souls back home to him. That Spirituality is the most important part, because the Spirituality of a true channel, a guru, is what? It's the Omniscience of God. It is the fact that God's Omniscience is dynamic to that channel – to the guru. That's why he can help you, and help me, and all others to whom God has responded. The Spirituality of the Guru is the important thing, and that's the fact that God's Omniscience is his own. Christ Consciousness is his own.

Now, an ordinary teacher, they may be able to help you in many ways. But that one point is missing. And that's the important point. The Spirituality of the guru is the fact that God's Omniscience is dynamic to his consciousness. Therefore, he can take you back home to that Omniscience. Ordinary teachers are many. Realize it. There are many ordinary teachers. But, there's one, one channel to go back to God. And God has responded to you, and sent you that channel. Realize the difference. Realize that. That you be not sidetracked, and lose that opportunity to once more know God, from whom you have come – your one Immortal Nature, your Divinity.

Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.”³ Jesus, of course, manifested the Omniscience of God, which always was, and always will be. That's what he meant, “Before Abraham was, I am.” Meaning, he spoke, not from his personality, but from the Christ Consciousness within him; from the Omniscience of God within him. That's the mark of a true guru. They speak not from the ego consciousness, but from the Omniscience of God in them. Do you see the difference? God has commissioned them. God has appointed them through whom He may manifest to those hungry souls wanting to return once more to Him.

And so, it is wonderful to know that discipleship is just as dynamic and necessary right now as it ever was. In the time of Krishna – Krishna was a manifestation of God, a great guru; and Gandhi, who came many years later, a follower of Hinduism, also recognized the One Eternal God as the Supreme Guru.

And so, discipleship is right now: dynamic, necessary, and available, even though Krishna has gone. Take Jesus, for instance. Jesus had his disciples, in the ordinary sense of the word; but true discipleship is available right now. St. Francis came many, many, many years after Jesus. But there was no greater follower of Jesus, or disciple, than St. Francis.

And so, do not think because the channel of Self-Realization has gone into the Omniscience of God, that it is not available. It's just as available, and always will be. God has responded to us, who follow Self-Realization, in this particular way. It is available even more so now, even though the channel has gone into the Omniscience of God. These are facts, realize that. If God is the Sole Guru, discipleship is just as dynamic now as it ever has been. And it is just as necessary now, for each and every one of us, to know the True Guru, and be a true disciple of God.

The need for God is paramount today, because of one unalterable law. "Discipleship Today" is our subject. Discipleship is absolutely necessary today, just the same as it was ages ago, because of one law. And what is that law? The law is this, and I read from the 82nd Psalm, the 6th Verse. We are made in the Image of God. We are God's children. And in that Psalm it says: "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."

Now, because of this law that we are made in the Image of God, we have that Spiritual side of us which must be fed, which must be cultivated, otherwise, we die. We take care of our ordinary body; our physical body; we feed it; and we put the clothes on it; and we take care of it. How about our Spiritual side? "I say, ye are gods, every one of us (sic).4" Every one of you made in His Image. What do we do about that? That's the law which necessitates, above all other things, that we follow the One Great Guru, and be His disciples, right today, now, because we must take care of not only our physical side, but our Spiritual side. We are animals, so to speak, human beings; but we are also gods. We must take care of that side.

And so, discipleship today is an absolute necessity. And, if you do not follow it, you will die – you will die to Eternal Consciousness; you will die to the Presence of God within you. You may be alive in waking consciousness, but really, you are dead, because true life is in the Eternal Consciousness of God. That's true discipleship. Realize that. Realize how necessary it is today, as in all time, to know the One Great Guru. Make Him dynamic to your consciousness. Realize your first and greatest necessity is to know Him, and to be friendly with Him. And if you have Him, you have all things. Therefore, discipleship today, under the influence of the channel, or the guru, must give you one thing – God contact.

As I spoke a few minutes ago about the Universality of Religion, which is above dogma and creed, and that Universality of Religion is the Presence of God within each and every one of us, and it can be contacted by everybody, irrespective of race or creed. That's what we must have. Discipleship today means, that God contact is absolutely necessary; absolutely necessary. And unless you can take God with you in every action; unless you feel the necessity of feeling God with you in all your dealings with people, in all your business dealings, in your sadness, and in your joy; unless you feel Him with you; you have not God contact. You better change yourself, or change your religion, or do something, and know God. God contact is absolutely necessary for discipleship today.

And that's why the channel of Self-Realization, the channel of our beloved Master, is so necessary, because it gives you the ways, and the means, for God contact. It gives you the techniques, even, whereby you can contact the One Great Guru. The Author of universe upon universe, God Himself, right within you, as His Great Word, the Great Cosmic Sound of Om, of which I have spoken, the Great Eternal Cosmic Light, which, when you merge in it, "Loses," as the Master said, "it's grossness on the coming of the One Eternal Love of God."

Now, these things are real, and these are the necessary things of discipleship today. You must have God contact, and the true channel of God; if you follow that channel, will give you, without question of a doubt, contact with God – friendship with Him. If you have contact with God, realize this, if you have contact with God, His Presence in you as the Word, the Great Cosmic Sound, the Great Eternal Light from which all things have come, and when that Light becomes warm, and dynamic, and active to your consciousness, then you know God.

And so, if you can get that contact, then, by association, the laws of association which are known, the laws of environment, when you mix with a thing you become like it. And so, if you have God contact, then through those laws, you gradually become that yourself. And the barriers of delusion are removed, and the separateness, which exists between you, and the One Great Guru, is taken away. And then, you'll realize that God Himself is none other than your own consciousness, and the consciousness of every one of your brothers and sisters, and all things that have ever been or will be.

That's what the Great Guru is. True discipleship today means that you must know Him. You must have the contact, and, finally, merge in Him. Discipleship today must follow the straight course to God. In the many orthodox religions, the course is not straight. It's taken up with outward things instead of going straight to God. Now, we have this quoted to us right in our Scripture, in St. John, the 1st Chapter the 23rd Verse. Listen: "He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

Who knows the straight way to God? Only one who knows God. Only that channel who knows the Omniscience of God knows the straight way, and he can give you that straight way. What is the Voice of the straight way? This is very important in our own Scriptures. What is the Voice of the straight way to God? The Holy Vibration, the Cosmic Sound of Om, the Word of God.

Now, a true guru, a true one, who knows God, knows that Cosmic Sound. And, if you follow his instructions, and his techniques, and his meditations, you, too, will contact that Voice. And that's the straight way back to God, because God is that Word. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God." That's the straight way to God. And any channel that gives you the contact with that Holy Vibration, that Word, that takes you to the way which leads straight to God – because God is that Cosmic Sound within you, that Cosmic Peace, which you feel right this moment – that's the Word of God. We must make God dynamic to our consciousness; not a matter of theory. We must feel and taste Him, as you taste Him now. Make God dynamic to your consciousness by attaining God contact, and then merging in Him.

Discipleship today must be as it was in the time of Jesus: warm, tangible, something real. When he said, when I am gone, I will send you the Comforter, every one of us as children of God, disciples of God, must know that Comforter, as Jesus spoke in our own Scriptures. In St. John, 14th Chapter, 26th Verse, what we read: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall bring you all things, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Now, realize this, that that Comforter is the Presence of God within us. And it must be known, not in a vague way, but in a real way, so that you feel the Presence of God as something tangible, something warm, something that you can appeal to, and something that will guide you from day to day. Unless you have that, what good is discipleship? The Comforter must be known. Just as Jesus said, "I will send it to you." It is there. It's the same Comforter of which all sages throughout the ages, all channels, all gurus, have spoken of. It is the Presence of God in each and every one of us as the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost, the Great Presence of God in His creation.

And so, we must realize that this Comforter is God's Omniscience in us. And we will make it dynamic when? We will make it dynamic; we will become true disciples of God, when we realize one thing. And that is that we need. Only one thing, and that's God Alone. When we fully surrender to God; when we take away all obstruction, and fully surrender to Him, within us, as His Great Holy Ghost – the Cosmic Sound of Om, the Great Light; and then, when we do that, then that Light, which is the most beautiful,

will lose its grossness, and in its place will come that warm, guiding touch of God Alone. Not in imagination, but in Reality, because God Is.

That's what we all need, if we are to be true disciples of God, we must know that Comforter. Knowing Him, you will find all your solutions there. You will find above all, that there is nothing between you and God. There is no separation. The delusion of separateness from God will be removed, if you make this Comforter dynamic to your consciousness, which you must do to follow the path of true discipleship today. If you make that dynamic to your consciousness, God will not be a vague thing. He'll be the most real thing in your life, because then you will know, "Father, there is no separation between us. Thou hast made all things, and it is Thou who art in me, and who has made me, and sustains me, and who surely knows everything that I need, and can guide me back home to my one Cosmic Home of Light." The Great Eternal Home from which we all have come, and to which, into which, we all will once more merge, "all of those who do right," and follow God back home.

And when we do this, when we fully surrender to God, when we make Him dynamic to our consciousness, and really feel Him come into you; when we no longer reflect the Spiritual Light, but receive Him, by fully surrendering to Him. When we do that, then we receive our just reward; to live eternally with Him in His Great Kingdom of Light. And then, we will have consummated the Path of True Discipleship, right today, by returning home to our One Cosmic Home of Light. The One Eternal Light, from which all things have come. And the One Eternal Light, into which, when you merge, you will find it is not Light, but the Love of the One Father.

1 St. John 10:30

2 St. John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

3 St. John 8:58, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

4 Ibid.

5 St. John 1:1