

SPIRITICITY, July 1963

VALUE THE MINISTRY

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

"An historical tragedy which is momentous in itself has at the same time a deeper significance as an allegory of a mystery which is illustrated in the passage of History because it lies at the heart of Life." -- A.J. Toynbee

If we cannot learn from history, there is not much hope for us. Mankind evidently cannot. Mankind keeps making the same mistakes over and over, and will continue to do so. But we as individuals can learn from the mistakes of the past and so be free from them and their destructive results.

One of the obvious lessons that is written in the pages of history "because it lies at the heart of Life" is that when people have not valued spiritual ministry and spiritual instruction, they have suffered and suffered badly. A spiritual minister (whether he is called a "prophet," an "apostle," a "saint," or a "metaphysician") is dedicated to God and sensitive to the Spirit. Thus he is the connecting link between God and men. It is a mistake to regard him lightly or to disregard what he says.

When the Israelites were camped at Kadesh-Barnea, on their way from Egypt to Canaan, a priest named Korah started a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. He felt that they were claiming too much authority for themselves and were getting too high-handed. He said (as many have said to spiritual leaders since his time):

"All the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them; why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

On the next day Korah and all his followers were dead.

About 200 years later, the Israelites (now settled in Canaan) were on the point of being made slaves by the Philistines. In this emergency Samuel the "man of God" anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. And Saul did very well for awhile; but then in the flush of success, he thought that he could get along without Samuel who was his spiritual minister. On two occasions Saul disobeyed Samuel. After this, he rapidly declined into insanity; he ended his life as a suicide.

When Samuel reproved Saul for his disobedience, he said: "Because you have despised the word of the Lord, He has despised you, so that you shall no longer be king of Israel." (This and the following quotations of the Old Testament are translated from the Septuagint.) The word that I have translated "despised" has in it the root meaning "nothing"; it means to think nothing of, or to take no account of. It is the same word that Nathan used when he rebuked David for stealing Bathsheba and having her husband Uriah killed in battle. Nathan said to David: "Thus says the Lord: ... The sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me." The sword never did depart from the house of David. His disrespect for the Lord was the start of bloodshed and violence that tormented his own life and tore his kingdom apart after his death. To despise God - to think nothing of Him - is fatal.

No other nation has produced such a succession of prophets as the Hebrews did. Yet they steadfastly refused to listen to their prophets. The Lord gave Jeremiah the message:

"You shall say: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to Me, then listen to the words of My sons the prophets, whom I have sent to you repeatedly - but you will not listen."

The Israelites had everything. Moses had given them a spiritual teaching incomparably higher than that of any other people of their time. David presented them with a secure and prosperous kingdom. But they threw it all away by refusing to listen to their spiritual ministers. First they wore themselves out by 200 years of civil warfare. Then the Assyrians and Babylonians ravaged the land. In 722 B.C. the Assyrians ended the northern kingdom by sacking Samaria; in 587 the Babylonians finished Judah by deporting all but the poorest inhabitants. All this would not have happened if the people had respected their prophets.

Six hundred years later, the Jews, now a part of the Roman Empire, refused the ministry of Jesus Christ. Shortly afterwards, the Romans turned their country into a desolation. Similarly the Athenians refused to listen to Socrates and found a pretext for putting him to death. This judicial murder started the decline of the most brilliant city the world has ever seen.

This phenomenon of destruction, following disregard for spiritual ministry has been seen as the revenge of a jealous God. This is a wrong interpretation. God never sends suffering. But though the interpretation is childish, the phenomenon remains. God does not punish us, but we punish ourselves by setting too low a value on that which is priceless. By so doing we cut ourselves off from our Source of Life. Reverence for God and respect for those who are doing His work are the channel that connects us with Deity.

Jesus Christ said: "If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered." All history bears this out.

If you have been lucky enough to find true spiritual ministry, respect it, and show your respect for it. It is human nature not to want to do so, for everyone likes to feel self-sufficient. But we hurt ourselves when we fail to respect those who are doing the Lord's work.

Paul said to Timothy: "Let those who minister rightly be counted worthy of double honor, particularly those who labor in the word and in teaching."

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HANDS

By Louise Elizardi

HAVE YOU ever stopped to consider how important a place hands play in our lives? If you happen to be sitting in your living room as I am, just look around at the objects there and try to visualize the craftsmanship behind each of the beautiful and comfortable furnishings that you enjoy. Over there stands a sofa with a carved wooden frame. Think of the clever pair of hands that wrought it.

The tapestry covering the sofa was woven by a pair of artistic hands. Look around at the paintings on the walls and see the results of hands that deftly placed strokes on canvasses. And think about the hands that fashioned the pieces of Dresden, Satsuma, and Sevres; all were hands from across the sea.

The hand, a complex instrument, is the most coordinated organ of our body. It can be trained to do anything we may desire. With it we take hold of things, especially the things we love.

The hands are instruments of giving and receiving. The more they give, the stronger they become. Their skill is very often a man's whole support; and the more service he renders, the greater the scope of his influence and the more extensive his reward.

The heart shows through our hands. Our affections move our hands in loving service. The whole body activity throws itself through the hands and they often are able to do things seemingly impossible. Our ability to grasp and our ability to impart is revealed in our hands. The strong, sensitive hand indicates a reliable person, one on whom to depend in time of need.

Jesus used His hands to bless children, to restore sight to the blind, to raise the dead. We too may use our hands to aid and abet our fellows. Eventually we discover that it is not necessary to touch persons to help them, but we can extend our spiritual hands through our love in wanting to help. To give through our "hands" is the way each one of us builds a monument to himself.

It would be wonderful indeed if we could meet all the people who helped make one room in our house pleasant and homelike. To have insight into their ways of living would gladden us in some cases, and in others, make us more conscious of the many blessings our way of life affords us.

We are inspired when, with our hands, we try to do something beautiful, so that we may have a part in contributing to the world something good, whether it be a piece of furniture, a china figurine, a piece of literature, a building, or even the humble services and little things that make up a happy home.

What is your contribution?

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THE GLORY OF THE LORD

By Alden Truesdell

AS WE CONSIDER the great mystery of godliness and it exposes its brilliance to our unfolding consciousness, it becomes more and more glorious with each revelation. We wonder how this marvel could have existed all these years without our being aware of it, even though we must admit we have not been too serious about consideration of God's being God or of our being the sons of God. This has been a poetical fancy, or something to be considered at some future time, but not to be taken seriously for the moment.

We have not considered the consciousness of our relationship to God to be the main object of our lives. And yet that is exactly what it is - the main object, the "prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In the pursuit of the spiritual goal, we learn to be one-pointed, single-minded. That the gate is narrow and the pathway strait becomes clear as we become serious about returning to our spiritual Home.

Some persons may be bothered by the thought of becoming pious and sanctimonious by following the rigid instructions of the Christ Truth. The ultimate result will be just the opposite. For "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. ..." It is not piety and pseudo-sanctity.

But we must be trained in Truth; we must train our attention towards Truth. The trained mind is the mind trained, or aimed, at the Mind of God, much as a gun or telescope is trained upon its target. Like the telescope, the trained mind sees more than the unaided eye.

We must give heaven its allotted time; we must relegate all power to the Overcomer. We are familiar with the idea that all power is in God; for we dutifully repeat our Lord's Prayer and say, "Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory." But we do not comprehend the meaning of what we say, for we are not yet acquainted with the Nature of That to which we pray.

We grow in grace. We become more and more filled with the higher understanding, and quickened with the finer energies of Spirit. But we never come to the place where we feel that we have completely arrived. God is still greater and more glorious than our highest realization of Him.

I have met only one person who claimed to be the ultimate. She said that God had broken the mold after He had made her. I might say that I do not blame God for doing so.

Before anything was, God is. He is the Truth and the whole Truth. God is inside what we call the "within"; He surrounds what we consider to be the outermost; He is above the most high point to which attention has been given; He is beneath the depths to which anything or anyone has dropped.

All our conceptions of God are but assumed premises which are subject to change. But God does not change, for He is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day," Jesus said: "and he saw it, and was glad. ... Before Abraham was, I am, ... Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me."

"God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all." Light does not change, but everything is changed by light. Life does not change, but life quickens and animates all things. Love does not change, but transforms all it touches.

As man tries to describe God, he fails, but benefits by his failure. His inability to encompass the grandeur of God reacts to his own benefit. He discovers why the least in the Kingdom is greater than the greatest prophet. And he comes back from his wrestle with the angel with a new grandeur of his own. Man becomes like that to which his attention is given.

We are familiar with human life that swings back and forth like a pendulum with its action and reaction. What we sow we reap; what we give out comes back to us. And we do not always like it. But we are now becoming familiar with the grace that descends as a fall out of life-giving, illuminating essence. So we endeavor to avoid the pendulum and encourage the enriching fall-out. Because our greatest benefit comes from above over the pathway of our vision, we obey the command, "Look up, and lift up your heads."

We do, in a way, work for a reward, even though there be no personal cupidity. We know that the Spirit works to give Itself to that which gives It attention. Attention, reaction, reception - thus is the house of consciousness and character built.

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

The point made by Jesus in comparing Solomon with the lily is obvious. The simplicity of beauty working out uninhibited through nature is similar to the simple and beautiful Truth expressing through the pure soul of some Christ-Truth aspirant. Of this Jesus is the supremely beautiful example.

The hectic striving for Truth, the rushing here and there, the carnival atmosphere of metaphysical conventions and religious revivals - all tend to draw people away from the Base of true supply and from the Supply of true beauty. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

His is the Power and the Beauty and the Glory, forever.

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SPIRITICITY, July 1963

APOTHEGMS

By Nell Truesdell

HEALTHY vegetables are never destroyed by destructive insects. Good soil, ample water, and loving care repay a gardener with an overabundance of produce. In the same way, a healthy mind and body reward a person with the joys of a good life. And, to carry our idea further, the spiritual life rewards us with the exceeding riches of God's grace, together with the Divine Kindness that is freely given through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Revere God and be grateful

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Blessed are the non-owning, for they are not owned by the things they could own if they so chose.

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There is a practice of "poverty" that never diminishes our resources, but that protects our resources from being diminished by misuse.

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You are not practicing "poverty" when you give up things that you do not need; you practice "poverty" when you can do without the things that you do not need.

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Gratitude is reverent appreciation for gifts received, whether spiritual blessings or "things."

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Thought is like smoke that indicates the presence of invisible gasses getting ready to burst into flame.

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Words are formulated thought; they are the symbols by which thought is interpreted.

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Emotion stimulates thought and gives it vigor that eventually is expressed in spoken words; these in turn may inflame the passion to a disastrous degree.

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As the Light of the Christ Truth breaks over the horizon of your consciousness, you will move by easy stages into an understanding of Its Transcendent Glory.

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We think of mountains as abiding forever. We think of rivers and lakes and seas as abiding continuously. Yet these manifestation in nature deteriorate and, little by little, fall into nothingness.

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Problems are like sandpaper that may be either coarse or fine. The coarse sandpaper tears off all hard bumps and quickly levels a surface. The fine sandpaper makes a uniformly smooth surface and gives it a beautiful polish.

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You can't cheat God.

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When a bearing in a machine burns out, the whole mechanism is affected. Replace the worn part and the mechanism is like new.

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If you think a person is against you, you punch a peephole in the rim of your consciousness through which you look toward him and so draw his influence into your consciousness. Put up the shutters, as it were, and gaze with all your heart to the Divine Presence that is always for you.

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"Come, my people, enter into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." (Isa.26:20)

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When we are consciously one with God, we are one with one another; we are one body. The difficulty is that we refuse to be one with God (consciously). But that is the pivot on which our spiritual welfare and our harmonious relations with others swing.

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In all your ways refer your understanding to God so that He may make straight your paths.

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Everybody is born into the world at a certain hour on a certain day. When that day comes up, it is significant: we celebrate our birthday. I suppose few persons celebrate the day of their spiritual birth - the day that they first realized their sonship to God through Christ Jesus. We know that the precious moment did occur, for we now follow a path of life through the world that is not subject to the world's way with humankind.

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The long shadows that are cast by our wrong choices make clear our need to turn to God's guidance, and obey it in all our ways.

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not be lifted up in your own wisdom." (Prov.3:5, LXX)

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Whose voice do we listen to? That of the persons around us or that of God, the invisible but inward Presence?

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There is a TRUTH greater than the truth you think you know. Cry after It. Look toward It. Seek It with all your heart.

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People pray hard to make a demonstration. They neglect to pray hard (in thanksgiving) after they have made the demonstration.

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When you feel you must apply pressure to force somebody to do or believe what you think is right, then you are wrong. No true IDEA needs force to establish it.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every week day of the month

JULY, 1963

1. Our God whom we serve is ABLE to deliver us.
2. BEHOLD, I have put My words in thy mouth.
3. I, the Lord, have CALLED thee.
4. He that DOETH Truth Cometh to the Light.
5. His Truth ENDURETH to all generations.
6. The FOOLISHNESS OF GOD is wiser than men.
8. He that GLORIETH, let him GLORY in the Lord.
9. Teach me, and I Will HOLD my tongue.
10. Endure, as seeing HIM who is INVISIBLE.
11. JUSTICE and JUDGMENT are the habitation of Thy Throne.
12. KNOW ye that the KINGDOM of God is nigh.
13. God is the LORD, which hath showed us LIGHT.
15. Thou, O Lord, art In the MIDST of us.
16. His NAME is called the Word of God.
17. This ONE thing I do.
18. Thou art my PORTION, O Lord.
19. QUICKEN me in Thy righteousness.
20. In RETURNING and REST shall ye be saved.
22. I have SET the Lord always before me.
23. THY TESTIMONIES are wonderful.
24. The Lord UPHOLDETH all.
25. Today ... hear His VOICE.
26. The eyes of all WAIT upon Thee, O Lord.
27. The fields YIELD fruits of increase.
29. Be ZEALOUS, therefore, and repent.
30. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.
31. Truly, our fellowship is with the Father.

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

DECEMBER 1955

1. If ye shall ASK ANYTHING in My name, I will do it.
2. BLESS the Lord, O my soul.
3. For this CAUSE CAME I unto this hour.
5. Let us love . . . in DEED and in truth.
6. Walk with Me in peace and EQUITY.
7. The Lord make his FACE to shine upon thee.
8. The Father may be GLORIFIED in the Son.
9. I Am the Lord that HEALETH thee.
10. The Spirit maketh INTERCESSION for us.

12. The God of hope fill you with all JOY.
13. As the Father KNOWETH Me, even so KNOW I the Father.
14. He that LOVETH Me, shall be LOVED of my Father.
15. I will MANIFEST MYSELF to him.
16. Walk in NEWNESS of life.
17. Ye are all ONE in Christ Jesus.

19. I go to PREPARE a PLACE for you.
20. Make (me) of QUICK understanding.
21. Put Me in REMEMBRANCE.
22. SEEK ye first the Kingdom of God.
23. Where I am, THERE ye may be also.
24. When I was a child, I UNDERSTOOD as a child.

26. VERILY, VERILY, . . . your sorrow shall be turned into joy.
27. It shall be WELL with thee.
28. Whither I go YE know, and the way YE know.
29. Where is thy ZEAL and strength?
30. Keep yourselves in the love of God.
31. Where is your faith?

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

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As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,
SPIRITICITY is the working power of the Spiritual Principle.

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