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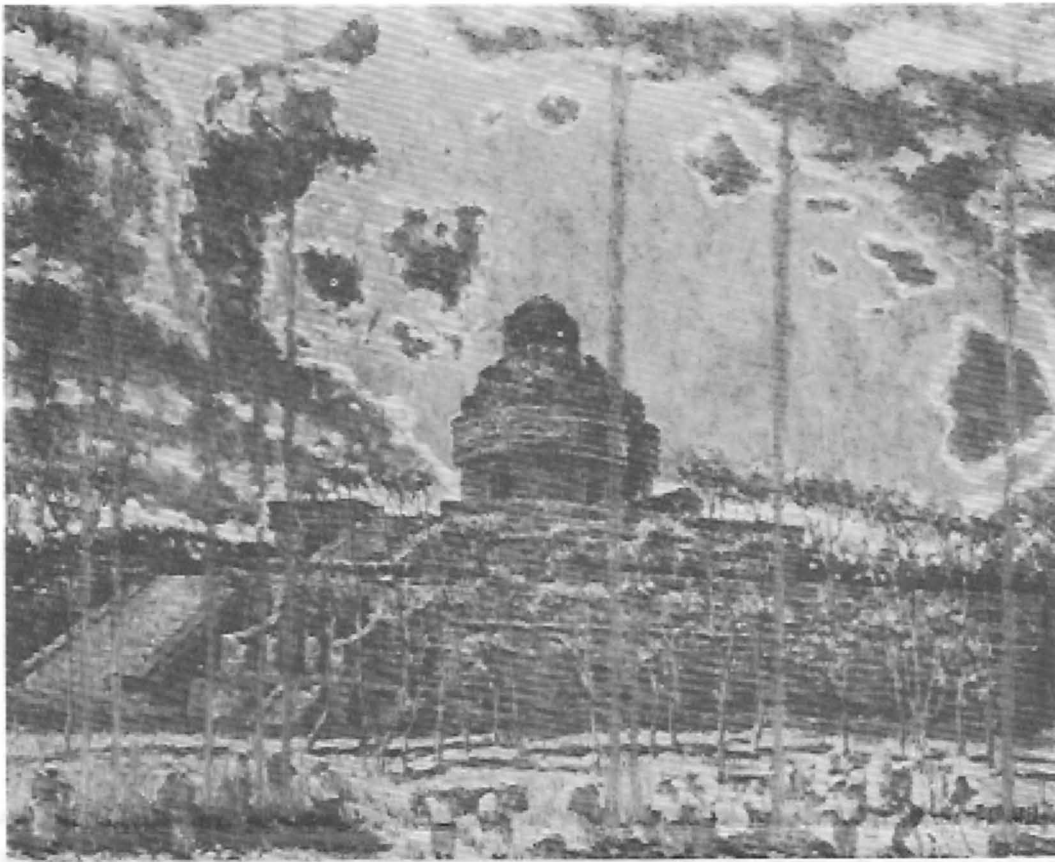
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THE "DO IT" LECTURES

MAYAN
REVELATION

135

RECONSIDER

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"YOU CANNOT REPENT TOO SOON, BECAUSE YOU
DO NOT KNOW HOW SOON IT MAY BE TOO LATE."

BELLOVED CENTURION:

Your instructor sends you the second lecture lesson in the DO IT Series with great enthusiasm, because I look upon it as DYNAMIC. It has the power to change your life the day you receive it, if you are ready to wholeheartedly accept its teachings.

I can almost hear you say, "Why, teacher, of course I accept it", - but, dear student, it isn't quite that easy. It may require that you make many changes in your daily life. It is not easy, it is difficult at first.

This series of lecture lessons teaches you a philosophy of life. It is true that some of the statements set forth you already know, but perhaps you have not, as yet, completely and wholeheartedly put them into practice. First of all, true repentance for those things in your life of which you are not proud is a necessity. There are many people who have faults but do not recognize them as such; therefore, they are not always repentant. One of the greatest of all the acts of mankind is repentance. There is nothing more divine than repentance, and it is a great fault when we are not conscious that we have something of which to repent.

Then so many people are sorry and are filled with repentance over a sin which they have committed, be it large or small, but they do not make any attempt to convert that sadness into action. In other words, they do not endeavor to convert their sorrow into a new and better life. Repentance without action is worth little or nothing. It is not enough to regret something which we have done. We must regret it to the extent that it never occurs again. Repentance has a purifying power in our life.

Let us make the philosophy which is set forth in this most important of all lecture lessons, the DO IT Series, an every-day religion; a religion that loves the homey, every-day duties of life, a religion that lasts in fair weather or stormy, one that makes an honest man or woman; an every-day religion that we use from the time we rise in the morning until we lay aside our duties at night.

Let us live each day so that our lives may be an example to those who observe us and who come in contact with us in our business lives, our home lives, our social lives; let each member of the Mayan Order live in such a way that his life will contribute to the unity of Mayanry and its purpose. Let your life be like a book that could be opened at random and read without revealing a single page that would not be elevating.

In other words, let your Christian life be seen. As an example, lamps do not talk but they do shine; they send out a light; a lighthouse doesn't sound a drum or beat a gong, yet way out over the water it can be seen. It sends light to be seen by those in distress. So let your light shine for all those who need you.

And, now, let us proceed with the great truths, and the rich philosophy which is set forth for you in this lecture lesson:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1;15.

1. ABOUT THE LESSON

This is one of the most important lessons you will ever study, for it establishes a fundamental viewpoint for faith and life. Please follow it through carefully. When you understand it a new world and a new life will open for you.

We are not now thinking of Jesus merely as the Founder of a religious belief. One grew from His life and teachings, but what He undertook to do was much broader and deeper than that - namely to bless and hallow life for living people. He was a Teacher and a Saviour because He was a Master of life. Here let us think of Him in that light.

The scripture sentence with which this lesson begins is His first great public utterance. He has just appeared in Galilee as a Teacher. His consecrating baptism is behind Him, followed by the great temptation in which every fiber of His nature was tested and tried. After these experiences He is ready to begin telling people what He has to say. It is only a few days before the wedding at Cana, where Mary made her significant remark about what He said to do, but that remark applies even though it has not yet been made.

Now the Great Teacher starts through Galilee presenting His first powerful lesson. His remarks are addressed not to one group and age but to all who ever read or hear them. The words are simple and have been often repeated, but this time we are not going to content ourselves with merely repeating them once more. We are going to concentrate on them and try to see what is their real meaning and scope. This, then, is His message - "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

This lesson is very short, but it penetrates to the inmost core of life, and on it swings the weight of your whole future. It comprehends anything else the Master of life ever said, and places it in its true relationship to life, the world, and all things.

It will be the purpose of this lesson to follow this lesson step by step and build it together till it stands out before you clear and whole. In it you can then see what to do next as you go forward with the formula it presents. That will be true if you work with it till you understand it.

You will not be able to do that if you try to relate it to old ideas and interpretations. Disregard them for the moment and start anew. Look between the lines and below the surface of this great instruction, and try to see the natural interpretation rather than some artificial one. You will find that these words of Jesus mean vastly more than all you ever thought it did. Then please face the steps of thought we are about to take with an open mind. It will be one of the most rewarding things you ever did.

2. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Let us begin with the phrase "the kingdom of God", because it is the objective of the ministry of Jesus and the central idea in this first teaching. What is it, really? Let us not be content with vaguely imagined conceptions, but face the question squarely.

Of course the word "kingdom" means sway or rule. Then the kingdom of God is the rule of God, a condition in which the will of God prevails. God has always been the King of all creation, but His sway does not take full effect till it is acknowledged and accepted. It will be fully realized when it is fully recognized. That might as well be now, and it might as well have been long ago; but we are still waiting.

Let us stop thinking of the kingdom or sway of God as something belonging only to some other world and some other life. What God desires for His children is for time as well as eternity, for this world as well as any other world to come, for the days we spend here as well as the days we hope to spend in some other condition.

In other words, the kingdom of God is everywhere and in all time, and so it is here and now. It is eternal, and this is a part of eternity. It is universal, and this is a part of the universe. The realization of that condition at once is what the Master was trying to show the people how to bring about.

What would that fully realized kingdom be like? What are we really asking for when we pray, "Thy kingdom come"? We are asking that God's will be done on earth the same way it is done in heaven. What is that will? IT IS THE CONDITION IN WHICH EVERY HUMAN BEING WOULD BE LIVING INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY IN THAT RIGHTNESS OF BEING, ACTION, AND RELATIONSHIP, WHICH WOULD ENABLE EACH ONE TO LIVE AT HIS HAPPIEST AND BEST.

1. It would mean ambition to achieve the noble and the good, and freedom to realize that ambition.

2. It would mean justice and rightness everywhere, not merely by the compulsion of law or the dictates of force but by the impelling influence of love and kindness.

3. It would mean living under conditions that offer full release to the creative impulse to accomplish beauty and worth.

4. It would mean the recapture of the divine image by the passing away of the conditions that mar, hinder, and seek to destroy it.

5. It would mean righteous and beneficent leaders whose programs would be to make their own and help to make the countries of others delightful lands, and the whole world a home of peace and happiness.

6. It would mean human cooperation, the goal of which would be to give every individual, strong or weak, powerful or humble, his chance to be what God meant him to be.

7. It would mean a race that found these and other conditions by walking with God and treasuring the values that bide, the condition the Master said is at hand.

3. AT HAND

That was the amazing thing about the kingdom of God - the fact that Jesus said definitely that the time was fulfilled and that it was at hand. How could that be? Repeatedly He said similar things. What could He have meant? We have not seen the kingdom of God in its fulness, even though centuries have passed. Could He have been mistaken?

No, He was not mistaken. Remember that we have said that although God is already King, and always has been, but the fulness of no kingdom can be realized until it is acknowledged and accepted by its subjects. That is the reason for the delay. How long will the delay last? Till human wilfulness yields to its rule and recognizes its Master - no more and no less.

In other words, as is the case with everything else, there is a potential kingdom before there is an actual one. In the potential kingdom the actual one is at hand, because it can be made actual whenever we are ready, for God has always been ready.

The actual kingdom of God is just as far away as is our readiness to receive it and live its life. The potential kingdom is at hand, at our very fingertips. For you, or anyone, the kingdom can become real today by your acknowledgment that you are a loyal citizen of it. Each person who thus accepts it brings it that much nearer for mankind.

As far as you are concerned the time is fulfilled now. There is no good reason for any more waiting. Only you can extend the delay. There is your good, your happiness, your peace, waiting for you. You have only to reach out and take it. The air is at hand, but it would never be yours if you did not breathe it. So it is with the kingdom.

The border of your part of the kingdom lies at your feet. You have but to step across the line and acknowledge its sway. The gateway to your happiness stands before you. You have but to lift the latch and pass through. There is no lock, and it turns on easy hinges. All that you could not do has been done. You must do the accepting yourself. The process of naturalization is very simple, and the time required is very short. Take the step sincerely, and the kingdom is yours.

It should be clear to you now what the kingdom is and why it is true that it is at hand. It is like a seed or an egg. Plant the seed or hatch the egg, and its possibilities are realized. Till then they are only potential. How much we miss when we let the kingdom possibility lie neglected like a fallow field!

All this shows how true it is that we need to rethink the whole matter of living, and that is exactly what we are now about to consider.

4. RECONSIDER

When you realize that the kingdom of God with all its blessings is lying around you like an unopened diamond mine, it puts a new light on things, doesn't it? Life and the world do not look the same. This is something to which you have to adapt yourself, but first you have to think it through. That is just what we are doing now. The Master says because the kingdom is available, repent.

The next thing is to determine what repentance is. This is something too few people stop to inquire, yet they go right on using the word. Let us leave the question in doubt no longer.

Most dictionaries claim that the word "repent" comes from the two Latin words "re" and "poena", meaning, to suffer pain again. The writer of this lesson disagrees. We think the word "repent" comes from the Latin words "re" and "pensare" meaning, to think again or to reconsider. Hence the title of this lesson.

Because of that first definition people think of repentance as feeling pain over some wrong committed, but we claim here that it is rethinking one's way of life with a view to changing and improving it. Some regret their mistakes painfully, but go right on making them. One who reconsiders them and his way of life is likely to see how he can do better and to do it.

To every one who has committed some hideous sin to weep over there are many whose lives are being wasted because they have not organized them rightly, have not given values their correct relative rating, have not escaped from useless striving. Their lives need rethinking, so they can be redirected.

The chief reason for this need is the fact that the potential kingdom of God is at our fingertips, waiting to be realized. When we really discover that fact and grasp its significance we know at once that it is time to stop and think things over again to see whether we are moving in the right direction. Since all the possibilities of the kingdom life are at stake, it is imperative that we get the threads of life untangled at once and have our plans rectified and our houses set in order.

In the light of the available kingdom we may see whether we are going in the right direction. If not, we may be going in the wrong direction, or we may be groping, or we may have started right and missed the way. In any case it is time to reconsider and try to see how we can best align our lives with the wonderful possibilities that are ours.

Then repent, rethink, reconsider, for the possibility of all that is best lies within your reach. The Master said to do this. DO IT.

5. BELIEVE

We have considered life's richest prize, the kingdom of God. We have seen that it is not something to be waited for, but something to be accepted and realized, since it is not a gift but a life. We have recognized the first of the two processes of approach, which is to repent or reconsider. We now pass on to

the second, which is believe.

The first thing we find it necessary to do as we take a new look at our lives and their relation to the world and things is to refurnish and enrich the believing department of them. Here are a few questions to which to find the answers. How much do you believe? What is it? How deeply and solidly do you believe it? What do you accomplish by that belief, and what does it profit you? These are questions the answers to which will indicate, like the column of mercury on a thermometer, the quality of your life and the LEVEL OF YOUR CHARACTER. Read these questions over again thoughtfully; think about them - they are of great importance.

There are people who pride themselves on how little they believe and how hard it is to get them to believe anything. They think it is to their credit to have a kind of tough sales resistance against believing things. They boast of their incredulity, and pride themselves that they are not gullible, forgetting that there is one thing worse than incredulity, and that is to have nothing in one's heart to cherish and to which to be loyal.

These people are not enriching their lives, but impoverishing them. They are not only shutting out error, but they are shutting out truth also. They are like one who never puts in a crop for fear he might grow a weed or two.

They are depriving themselves of many things that are wonderful and true, and yet of which hard and fast proofs cannot be given. Some of the most precious things we know are things that could not be proved, at least to the satisfaction of the incredulous. Love, friendship, patriotism, God - you know these things as experiences in your life, but how would you prove them to one who does not wish to believe you?

Then there are the lackadaisical people who just drift through the years without particularly believing or disbelieving anything. They do not think anything about it, and therefore they do not care. They let others worry about truth and error. They hardly count at all because nothing much ever comes of their lives. Great living proceeds from great convictions, and they have no great convictions. Their situation hardly amounts even to tragedy. It is more like a sad joke. But they are missing the joys of living because they are unconscious of the available kingdom and unchallenged to the high adventure of realizing it.

There are many great beatitudes in the Bible and outside of it. Let us add one more to the long list. Please take it, reflect upon it, measure yourself by it, and gather its worth. Here it is - blessed are they who believe something. We might add that more blessed are they who believe much. Even if some weeds grow in the garden of belief, one at least has the belief; and he can weed out the error as he goes along.

Believe the best you know as deeply as you can. Let your mind have something to work on and your thinking something to justify itself. Have some loyalty born of the acceptance of a truth, or at least born of some search for truth.

Assume the best you know and test it out in the daily processes of life;

change, revise, abandon, and replace, till you have it justified and refined. Seek for the things that are true, and believe them. They will be the stock in trade of your soul.

It is nothing strange, then, that Jesus first directed us to reconsider, and then to believe. But in what? We shall now proceed to see.

6. THE CREDO OF THE WORLD

The question raised above may seem superfluous to you. Is not the answer given in the command itself? Believe what? Believe the gospel, of course. But what is the gospel?

The gospel is the New Testament, do you say? But the New Testament was not written till long after this command was given. The teachings of Jesus, then? But all the teachings of Jesus, save this one, were yet to come. What is the gospel then?

The word "gospel" is made of two old words which, taken together, meant good tidings or good news. The world was about to begin hearing the best news that had ever come to it. A great message was about to fall on its weary ears, and the Messenger Himself was now speaking.

The next three years were to bring word to a troubled race that there is always hope, that what is lost can be saved, that what is not lost can be kept from being lost, that evil can be conquered with good, that soiled lives can be cleansed, that weak souls can be made strong, that despair can be replaced with courage, and that the world can be cured of everything that is wrong with it.

Men were to hear that the future is not necessarily darkness and ruin, that it can be made one of beauty, happiness, and peace; that God reigns and that the kingdom of tearless faces is coming. They were to hear that life is sacred, that Destiny respects the individual, and that the issues of life are eternal. They were to hear that there is release for captive lives, that there is hope for the poor, and that there is healing for the broken-hearted. Is not that good news?

People had long been accustomed to see the dark side, to believe in gloom and despair. Now they were being told to believe in deliverance and happiness. They had heard much of evil, but now they were being told to see the good. They had shrunk back in fear of bad news so long that now they had to accustom their ears to something better and step forth confidently to hear good news at last. The good word was being proclaimed, and it was for them, for all of us, for you.

So the Master bids us to reconsider our ways, rethink the situation, and readjust our lives. Seeing that the kingdom is available to each of us, we are bidden to believe it and all its possibilities. A Messenger has come to tell us to put our fears aside, get our lives on the victory level, and keep them there. As we believe this we and our world begin to be transformed. The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Reconsider and believe the good news.



7. BELIEVE THE BEST

In closing this lesson you are asked to let this first instruction of the Master, this first sermon of His ministry, this first lesson of His school, blossom out till you can begin to see how limitless its possibilities are. Among other things and in general it is a call to stop believing the worst and begin to believe the best.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN LIVING. Put away fear, pessimism, and despair. Stop creating them in your attitudes, for that is their real source and field of existence. Get your thinking out into the sunshine and fresh air. Stop living on the debit side of the ledger and begin living on the credit side.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN YOURSELF. It is well enough to be humble, but humility was never yet harmed by self-respect. You are a child of God, created in His spiritual image, and possessing many of His powers. Think like it, live like it, express it, and honor the divinity in yourself.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN OTHERS. They too are children of God. If they are worthy, respect their worth. If they are unworthy, your respect will help them much more than will your condemnation. Jesus saw the good in some very unpromising people, and made saints and heroes of them before He was through, for He knew what was in man - and so should you. As a Mayan Minister, you are in a far better position than others to know your fellow man, and thereby are better able to help him.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS. We are mistaken when we speak of the creation of the world as having been long ago. It is not yet finished. God is developing it day by day into what it is to be, and you are helping Him. You can do it well only if you believe in the ultimate result and are certain it will be good because God wills it so.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN THE TIDES OF LIFE. They are not trying to sweep you on to some reef of peril and ruin or to wreck the human race on some cruel rock. They are trying to carry us all to a destiny of hope and wonder, a sun-crowned goal where we and life shall all be as the Creator planned them from the first.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT YOU DO. Your efforts are futile only if you try to live by your own will and work in your own strength. In every consecrated effort you have a Helper, and those who work with Him never fail. If you have found your true place in the world's endeavor go ahead and plant your seed. God and the ages will take care of the harvest, and it will be good.

BELIEVE THE BEST IN YOUR THOUGHT LIFE. Keep it POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE, CREATIVE. Everything, good or bad, begins with a thought. The thought you release will bear fruit, and the fruit will be no better than the thought. Are you ready to take the responsibility for what you are thus planting in the life of the world?

BELIEVE THE BEST IN THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD. He is love, and in Him there is nothing not consistent with love. You cannot drift beyond that love. It is the most powerful of all things. BELIEVE IN IT and what it is ready to do for you.

These are some of the things it means to believe the best. Do it.

As we bring this lecture lesson to a close, your instructor would like to suggest that you go back and follow the instructions given to you. I would even suggest that you memorize certain parts. You will be amazed how greatly you will be benefited if you are able, as you go about your daily activities, to recite from memory some of the truths which you have been given in this lesson. You can attract to yourself much good and eliminate the negative conditions in your life. Now let us say together the following prayer:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as I rethink my life help me to believe fully in the gospel of the kingdom of the best. Amen.

May this lesson be blessed in your life,

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR

The title of your next lecture lesson is QUALITY LIVING, and it covers the following subjects:

ONE WAY OF SEEKING
ON BEING PERFECT
MOUSE TRAPS AND LIVES
PERFECTION IS PROGRESSIVE

HOW
DAY BY DAY
THERE WAS A MAN
PRAYER