

*This is the service
I prepared for
the 2000th
B.D. celebration
Carolyn*

The Master speaks across the centuries --

2000th Anniversary of the Birth of

JESUS OF NAZARETH

Sunday, August 21, 1994

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Harris Hall, Northwestern University

(Celebrated by members and friends of First, Orvonton and Glenview Societies)

JESUS' 2000TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

PRESIDENT:

I would like to welcome you to our celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. On August 21st, 7 B.C., the Creator of our vast Local Universe incarnated on our world, Urantia, as Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary and Joseph. The facts surrounding the birth of Jesus are well known to Christians and to readers of *The Urantia Book*, alike.

We do not come here today to recite the familiar story of the journey to Bethlehem, the crowded inn, the adoration of shepherds and angels, or the flight into Egypt. Nor will we ponder how the Creator Son became Jesus 2000 years ago, for we are instructed that how such an incarnation is effected is a universal mystery.

We view this special birthday as an opportunity to refresh our memories about the mission and purpose of Michael's bestowal, and of the soul-saving truths in his teachings. We also bid you to contemplate how the life and lessons of the Master speak across the centuries to guide our spirits today.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Narrator 1 and John the Baptist stand up.
Music: Excerpt from *The Moldau* by Smetana.
When music stops, begin to read.)

NARRATOR 1: John journeyed around the western coast of the Dead Sea and up the river Jordan. As John traveled north, his disciples asked him, "Are you the Messiah?"

JOHN: "There will come after me one who is greater than I, whose sandal straps I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose; I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (P. 1503).

NARRATOR 1: In mind John might be confused, but in spirit never. He was in no doubt about the coming kingdom, but he was far from certain as to whether or not Jesus was to be the ruler of that kingdom. As Jesus approached John at the Jordan River, John announced:

JOHN: "Behold the Son of God, the deliverer of the world. For this cause I came out of the wilderness to preach repentance and to baptize with water, proclaiming that the kingdom is at hand" (P. 1506).

NARRATOR 1: John had a lonely experience in prison. He was often tempted to doubt Jesus and his divine mission. A group of his disciples came to him and reported concerning Jesus. John answered his friends:

JOHN: "I am one sent on to prepare the way for him. My joy, therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. I am of this earth and have declared my message. The Son of Man has descended from God, and the words of God he will declare to you. The Father loves his Son and will presently put all things in the hands of this Son. He who believes in the Son has eternal life. And these words which I speak are true and abiding" (P. 1507).

(Narrator 1 and John the Baptist sit down.)

IMMANUEL

(Music: Excerpt from "Jupiter" from *The Planets* by Holst
Narrator 2, Immanuel and Jesus 1 stand.
When music stops, begin to read.)

NARRATOR 2: After his baptism Jesus entered upon the forty days of adjusting himself to the new and changed phase of earth life which he was about to inaugurate. Jesus did not go into retirement for the purpose of fasting and for the

affliction of his soul. He now fully recalled the instructions administered by Immanuel, ere he entered upon his incarnation.

IMMANUEL:

"As concerns the world of your bestowal and the immediate generation of men living thereon at the time of your mortal sojourn, I counsel you to function largely in the role of a teacher. Give attention, first, to the liberation and inspiration of man's spiritual nature. Next, illuminate the darkened human intellect, heal the souls of men and women, and emancipate their minds from the age-old fears. And then, in accordance with your mortal wisdom, minister to the physical well-being and material comfort of your brothers and sisters in the flesh. Live the ideal religious life for the inspiration of all your universe.

"Your earth life shall not be so lived as to constitute an example. Rather shall your life be the inspiration for all lives throughout all generations in the ages to come.

"Your great mission is to live wholeheartedly motivated to do the will of your Paradise Father, thus to reveal God your Father to the creatures of the flesh. You will also function as to make a new revelation of man to God. Exhibit in your one short life the transcendent possibilities attainable by a God-knowing human during the career of mortal existence" (P. 1238).

(Immanuel sits down. Narrator 2 and Jesus remain standing.)

THE MISSION OF JESUS

(Music: *The Mission Theme* from the movie.
When music stops, begin to read.)

NARRATOR 2: Jesus did establish and demonstrate a standard of human life for all peoples upon all worlds throughout his entire universe. And this standard approached the highest perfection, even the final goodness of the Universal Father (P. 1594). It is enough to say that the Son of Man was the only person who ever lived on earth who could simultaneously see into the very heart of God and into the very depths of man's soul (P. 1603). Jesus did not come to teach us about himself; he came to teach about the Father.

JESUS 1: "Though I stand before you in this physical presence, I came forth from God the Father ((P. 1750). Mortal man cannot see the spirit Father therefore have I come into the world to show the Father to your creature eyes (P. 1952). He who has seen me has seen the Father" (P.).

NARRATOR 2: Jesus is the spiritual lens in human likeness which makes visible to the material creature Him who is invisible (P. 1856).

JESUS 1:

"I have come among you to proclaim a great truth: that God loves you--every one of you--as individuals. All these generations have you had a national or social religion; now I have come to give you a personal religion (P. 1629). I have come to proclaim joy to the socially downtrodden and spiritual liberty to the moral captives (P. 1541). The Son of Man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, ... I declare to you that I have come to seek and to save those that are lost (P. 1750). Think not that I have come to bring peace, but rather a soul struggle (P. 1782). My mission will not bring peace in the material affairs of men--not for a time, at least. ... While it is true that each believer shall have great and lasting peace in his own heart, but peace on earth will not come until all are willing to believe and enter into their glorious inheritance of sonship with God (P. 1824). I have come into this world to do the will of my Father and to reveal his loving character to all mankind. That, my brethren, is my mission" (P. 1608).

NARRATOR 2:

The Master came down to earth to teach the voluntary conformity of man's will to God's will (P. 1582).

(Narrator 2 and Jesus 1 sit down.)

TEACHING GANID--DOING THE WILL OF GOD

(Music: Selection from Hymns Triumphant.
Ganid and Jesus 2 stand up.)

GANID:

"Teacher, Joshua, are there really differences among human beings?"

JESUS 2:

"Ganid, There are only two groups. of mortals in the eyes of God: those who desire to do his will and those who do not" (P.1468).

GANID:

"Teacher, what is the difference between the will of God and the human act of choosing which all of us calls will?"

JESUS 2:

"The will of God is the way of God,... To do the will of God is to gradually become more and more like God. and God is the source and destiny of all that is good and beautiful and true. Ganid, the will of man is the way of man, ... Those who make whole-hearted moral decisions and unqualified spiritual choices are increasingly identified with the indwelling divine spirit (P.1431).

(Ganid sits down; Jesus 2 remains standing.)

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

(Narrator 3 and Apostle join Jesus 2.

Music: *Jesu: Joy of Man's Desiring* by Bach (Harpsichord).

When music stops, Jesus 2 begins to read)

JESUS 2: "And I say to you: Whatsoever you believe that I would do for men, do you also to them (P. 1571). This is the brotherhood of love wherein righteousness reigns, and whose battle cry shall be: Peace on earth and good will to all men" (P. 1568).

APOSTLE: "Master, how is our religion different than all other religions?"

JESUS 2: "Our teaching provides a religion wherein the believer is son of God. That is the good news of the gospel of the kingdom."

APOSTLE: "Master, are all men the sons of God?"

JESUS 2: "Yes, Simon, all men are the sons of God, and that is the good news you are going to proclaim. Tell your hearers: 'You are the child, and it is your Father's kingdom you seek to enter'" (P. 1585).

NARRATOR 3: Very plainly, Jesus explained that the kingdom of heaven was an evolutionary experience, beginning here on earth and progressing up through successive life stations to Paradise (P. 1603).

JESUS 2: "Life in the Father's eternal creation is not an endless rest of idleness and selfish ease, but rather a ceaseless progression in grace, truth and glory. Each of the many, many stations in my Father's house is a stopping place, a life designed to prepare you for the next one ahead. And so will the children of light go on from glory to glory until they attain the divine estate wherein they are spiritually perfected, even as the Father is perfect in all things (P. 1953). When the Spirit of Truth comes, he shall eventually guide you into all truth as you pass through the many abodes in my Father's universe (P. 1951). I have much yet to say to you, but you cannot stand any more just now" (P. 1951).

(Apostle sits down; Narrator 3 and Jesus 2 remains standing.

Music: *Jesu: Joy of Man's Desiring* (full orchestra)

JOHN MARK

(John Mark brings a basket to Jesus 2. Jesus accepts it, but John Mark continues to hold on the basket.)

JOHN MARK: "Master, I have packed a lunch for you. If I could go along to carry the lunch,

you would be free to worship, and I will surely be silent" (P. 1920~).

JESUS 2.

"John Mark, since with all your heart you crave to go with me, ... we will go off by ourselves and have a good visit (P. 1921). Mark, I know you will prove loyal to the gospel of the kingdom because I can depend upon your faith and love when these qualities are grounded upon such an early training as has been your portion at home. You are the product of a home where the parents bear each other a sincere affection" (P. 1922).

NARRATOR 3:

The child derives his first impression of the universe from the mother's care; he is wholly dependent on the earthly father for his first ideas of the heavenly Father (P. 1).

As long as we teach children to pray, "Our Father who is in heaven," a tremendous responsibility rests upon all earthly fathers so to live and order their homes that the word father becomes worthily enshrined in the mind and hearts of all growing children (P. 1923).

(John Mark, Narrator 3 and Jesus 2 sit down.

The basket remains on the table.

Tape: "If I could spend one day with Jesus..." (VBG))

THE REMEMBRANCE SUPPER

(Apostle 1 returns and light candles, then sits down.

Jesus 3 stands up and begins to read.

Background music: *Symphony No. 5 (Reformation)* by Mendelsshon)

JESUS 3:

"I wish to establish the supper of remembrance. And as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me. And when you do remember me, first look back upon my life in the flesh, recall that I was once with you, and then, by faith, discern that you shall all sometime sup with me in the Father's eternal kingdom. This is the new passover which I leave with you, even the memory of my bestowal life" (P. 1943).

(Jesus 3 picks up the cup and as he reads the next selection, the wine is poured by Apostles 2 and 3, first for Jesus 3, then for everyone else.)

JESUS 3:

"This is the cup of the blessing of a new dispensation of grace and truth. This shall be to you the emblem of the bestowal and ministry of the divine Spirit of Truth. Take this cup, all of you, and drink it. This shall be the cup of my remembrance. And I will not drink this cup with you again until I drink in new form with you in the Father's eternal kingdom" (P. 1941).

(Everyone drinks wine. Jesus 3 picks up the basket of bread and breaks off a few pieces, then passes both baskets in opposite directions.)

JESUS 3: "Take this bread of remembrance and eat it. I have told you that I am the bread of life. And this bread is the united life of the Father and the Son in one gift. The word of the Father, as revealed in the Son, is indeed the bread of life" (P. 1942). Now let us recite the 118th Psalm (P. 1943).

GROUP, TOGETHER:

"O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
His steadfast love endures forever!
With the Lord on my side, I do not fear.
What can man do to me?
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
That I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Blessed be he who enters in the name of the Lord!
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

JESUS 3: "Peace be upon you. That which my Father sent me into the world to establish belongs not to a race, a nation, nor to a special group of teachers or preachers. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to both Jew and gentile, to rich and poor, to free and bond, to male and female, even to the little children. And you are all to proclaim this gospel of love and truth by the lives you live. You shall love one another with a new and startling affection, even as I have loved you. You will serve mankind with a new and amazing devotion, even as I have served you. ... As the Father sent me into this world, even so now send I you. You are all called to carry the good news to those who sit in darkness. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to all who believe it; ... The Spirit of Truth shall lead you into all truth. Go you, therefore, into all the world preaching this gospel, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the ages" (P. 2044).

THE END