

A VOICE OF

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## JOSEPH and MARY



### The End of a Search

We read that after a study of the segregated worlds, Michael chose Urantia as the planet for his final bestowal. (1344)

Then he sent Gabriel and "as a result of his study of human groups and his survey of the spiritual, intellectual, racial, and geographic features of the world and its peoples, he decided that the Hebrews possessed those relative advantages which warranted their selection as the bestowal race".

(In a way they were the "chosen" people. Chosen for a job. But no dearer to the heart of God than any other race.)

Then Gabriel sent a Family Commission of Twelve to Urantia to find a family among the Hebrews.

They nominated three couples. Then Gabriel picked Joseph + Mary. Subsequently he made his personal appearance to Mary to tell her about it.

How careful they were to find good parents — a good home — for the little Jesus!

Let's pray that we may learn more and more about how to do that for the unborn children of our planet.

On page 939 it states: "As are the families of the race or nation, so is its society. If the families are good, the society is likewise good.

How could it be otherwise?

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### Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men



# The Garden of my Memory



Recently I listened to a tape by Elinor Jackson, entitled "This too shall Pass". In it she made the comment that nothing was permanent except change, and that good as well as bad would pass. She said one time in a blue mood she opened the Bible and her eyes fell on these words: "And it came to pass." For the first time she realized the literal meaning of those words. Things come to pass - not to stay.

Of course, since time is a sequence of events, that has to be true. No matter how much we enjoy a situation we can't stop time and stay in it. And no matter how bad it is, it also will pass. And this is very good for now. But let's remember that eventually "time will be lost in eternity" (295), and then everything is the eternal now.

But what of all those wonderful things in our lives? Do we lose them? Of course not. Our Indwelling Spirit duplicates them and stores them in our Soul. Then in the Garden of Memory we can go and enjoy them any time we wish.

How about the abuses, griefs, errors, — all the devastating events? Aren't they there in the Garden, too?

No. The Adjuster doesn't duplicate them if they are of no use in our ascent. You don't clutter up a garden with weeds. (1235)

Of course in our minds we can remember those things. And it's good that we can, if for no other reason than to prevent history's repeating itself. We need examples of what not to do, as well as what to do. But they have lost their sting. They are no longer devastating. They are not in the Soul Garden.

I know some people seem to get a perverse pleasure from fuming over real or supposed mistreatment. They seem to love to plan how to get even. They are vengeful and vindictive, like Judas. They nurse those hurt feelings.

Maybe they're not co-operating with the Spirit — in which case they have no Soul Garden for him to plant beautiful things in. That's the difference between a happy spiritual person and one who gets more and more desperate. On page 1766 Jesus tells us: "Increasing happiness is always the experience of all who are certain about God."



On page 1779 Rodan tells us that "the noblest of all memories are the treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship."

And we know that's true, for true relationships are ends in themselves. Never ending. (1228)

On page 1821 Jesus tells us to be careful to lay up treasures in heaven. Of course this is in the Soul Garden. The soul is the part of us that goes to heaven.

You've heard the poem: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest was not spoken of the soul!"

Well, "It came to pass" was not spoken of the soul, either. It is eternal.

And when we need rest, the beautiful Soul Garden of Memories is always there.



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - Longfellow

selected verses



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I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play,  
And mild and sweet the words repeat of peace on Earth, good-will to men.  
And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on Earth," I said.  
For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on Earth, good-will to men.  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep; "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep,"  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on Earth, good-will to men.

I wish the church bells would ring at midnight on New Years Eve as they used to. It was so much nicer than Boom! Bang! Pop!

thelew

# LOVE



On page 648 just after the paragraph that tells us "God is love" is a short one-sentence definition of love.

"Love is the desire to do good to others."

There are many other paragraphs dealing with love in our Book, and many things may be added to that definition, but that can't be taken away. It's basic to all love. If the emotion you think is love doesn't have it — then it's not love. (Also you may love people and not like them — not enjoy their company.)

It's what's meant in the angel song, "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Most people think of "doing good" to others as giving them things or doing things for them. And indeed most of the time it is. So we don't have to dwell on that.

But sometimes giving and doing are harmful. It doesn't do people good.

So the question arises — How can we tell when to give and do, and when to refrain from giving and doing — to practice tough love?

Let's see what Jesus says about it.

Let's look first at that "special instruction" he gave to Peter, James, and John one Thursday afternoon on the lake. The account starts on page 1579.

"And he made it plain this afternoon that he approved of the social punishment of evil-doers and criminals, and that the civil government must sometimes employ force for the maintenance of social order and in the execution of justice."

And further, on page 1580 it states: "He made it clear that indiscriminate kindness may be blamed for many social evils. The following day Jesus definitely instructed Judas that no apostolic funds were to be given out as alms except upon his request or upon the joint petition of two of the apostles."

(Maybe they had been besieged by some of the social parasites mentioned above.)

Also (1579) he quoted with approval the old Hebrew saying, "He who will not work shall not eat."

Now we turn to 1766 to that marvelous section called Instructions for Teachers and Believers. (Are we?) He says: Teach all believers to avoid leaning upon the insecure props of false sympathy. You cannot develop strong characters out of the indulgence of self-pity; extend sympathy to the brave and the courageous while you withhold overmuch pity for those cowardly souls who only half-heartedly stand up before the trials of living. Offer not consolation to those who lie down before their troubles without a struggle."

And after, through compassion, he had fed the 5000 because they weren't close to any source of food, he refused to do more for them because he said all they wanted was to "fill the belly with the bread of ease". 1710

It seems that Jesus would agree with his Son, the Melchizedek, who tells us on page 1088: "The church, because of overmuch false sentiment has long ministered to the underprivileged and unfortunate, and this has been well, but this same sentiment has led to the unwise perpetuation of racially degenerate stocks which have tremendously retarded the progress of civilization."

So, it seems that Jesus' attitude toward gifts was discrimination — "Be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves": (1580)

It's not love to give candy to a baby just because he cries for it, when you know it will upset his stomach. It's love to refuse the candy. But the baby doesn't think so.

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It's not love to give candy to a baby just because he cries for it, when you know it will upset his stomach. It's love to refuse the candy. But the baby doesn't think so. The adult "babies" and their friends will say you have "no compassion."

It seems that "all true love is from God and man receives the divine affection as he himself bestows this love upon his fellows." 1289

But love is the desire to do GOOD to them.

H.B.A.



Merry  
Christmas!



Happy New  
Year!

