

Chapter 17

Magical Mystery Tour (Part 2)

BIBLE

They departed, and went throughout the villages, preaching the Good News, and healing everywhere.¹ They arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.²

Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.³

He came out, and went, as his custom was, to the Mount of Olives. His disciples also followed him.⁴ He sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.⁵

The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.⁶ Out of his nostrils a smoke goes, as of a boiling pot over a fire of reeds.⁷

His mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue freed, and he spoke, blessing God.⁸

COMMENTARY

¹ **Luke 9:6** [*“They” are the Beatles*] Ashley Kahn: “The true and endearing worth of the Beatles was not their commercial achievements but the life lessons in the songs that have yet to diminish in value. Lessons in acceptance and tolerance and compassion and positive belief in the future that even a wide-eyed seven year old could grasp.”

² **Luke 8:26** John: “The whole Beatle idea was to do what you want, right? To take responsibility, do what you want and try not to harm other people, right? *Do what thou wilt*, as long as it doesn’t hurt somebody.”

³ **Acts 21:26** Gandhi: “Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.”

⁴ **Luke 22:39**

⁵ **2 Kings 16:4**

⁶ **Revelation 8:4** Paul, on the “high places”: “Marijuana started to find its way into everything we did. It colored our perception and we started to realize there weren’t as many barriers as we thought.”

⁷ **Job 41:20**

⁸ **Luke 1:64**

“There is no one like you, Yahweh; you are great, and your name is great in might.⁹ Let my prayer be set before you like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.”¹⁰

Turning to the disciples, he said, “All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who the Father is, except the Son, and he to whomever the Son desires to reveal him.”¹¹

The disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom he spoke.¹² Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures.¹³

“Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.¹⁴ This mystery is great, but I speak concerning Christ and of the assembly.¹⁵

“The mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to his saints,¹⁶ to whom God was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*.¹⁷

⁹ **Jeremiah 10:6**

¹⁰ **Psalms 141:2** Incense is used in many of the world religions. The “holy smoke” as it rises is considered symbolic of prayers reaching upward to Heaven.

¹¹ **Luke 10:22** The Son is the Christ, our true spiritual self. The Father and the Son are one.

¹² **John 13:22**

¹³ **Luke 24:45** Psychoactive drugs can open the mind to new and different ways of understanding things. Paul describes this in “Got To Get You Into My Life,” a song of his that he once called “an ode to pot.” “I was alone, I took a ride, I didn’t know what I would find there,” he tells us. What he is looking for, he shares, is “another road, where maybe I could see another kind of mind there.”

¹⁴ **1 Corinthians 15:51** “Roll up for the mystery tour,” Paul announces in “Magical Mystery Tour.”

¹⁵ **Ephesians 5:32** “Christ,” the title given to Jesus of Nazareth, means “perfect man.” It is our higher self, the God within, the lord of our being. It is *not* the last name of Jesus.

¹⁶ **Colossians 1:26**

¹⁷ **Colossians 1:27** Waking up to our own Christ nature and living life as a spiritual being gives us our best hope for a fully realized life. Christ sets us free from toxic emotions.

“For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.¹⁸ Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.¹⁹

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.²⁰ The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?²¹

“But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.²²

“But we have this treasure in clay vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves.²³ We are pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not to despair;²⁴ pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed.²⁵

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.²⁶ For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.²⁸

¹⁸ **Romans 1:16**

¹⁹ **Galatians 5:24** Christ consciousness means living by spiritual principles rather than by what our feelings tell us. We don’t ignore our feelings but we don’t let them take control of us. Ken Keyes, Jr., *Handbook to Higher Consciousness*: “As you grow toward higher consciousness, you begin to realize that all of the fear, grief, and anger that you experience is simply a teaching that the world is offering you to help you free yourself from this hollow dance you are doing. The world is giving you the experience that will help you develop an insight into the mechanical way you are acting out various addictive roles.”

²⁰ **1 Corinthians 15:17** Christ is our hope of glory, but it has to be raised up in us. If Christ has not been raised, we will still be in our “sins,” separate from God and His best plan for us. We will be like the frustrated young woman in “She’s Leaving Home” who had “something inside that was always denied for so many years.”

²¹ **Jeremiah 17:9**

²² **1 Corinthians 1:24**

²³ **2 Corinthians 4:7**

²⁴ **2 Corinthians 4:8**

²⁵ **2 Corinthians 4:9**

²⁶ **Galatians 6:2**

²⁷ **Galatians 3:26**

²⁸ **1 Corinthians 3:23**

But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, confined for the faith which should afterwards be revealed.²⁹ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.³⁰

“But we know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully.³¹ So that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.³²

“But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.³³ For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.³⁴

“Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don’t be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.³⁵

“For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and whatever other commandments there are, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’³⁶

²⁹ **Galatians 3:23** Being “under the law” is being obedient to a set of external rules. Until we learn to have faith in Christ, or the God within, we are dependent on following specific instructions if we want to grow spiritually.

³⁰ **Galatians 5:18** In “Getting Better,” Paul pokes fun at those who pay more attention to the letter of the law than the spirit of the teaching: “The teachers who taught me weren’t cool, holding me down, turning me round, filling me up with your rules.”

³¹ **1 Timothy 1:8**

³² **Galatians 3:24**

³³ **Galatians 3:25** From the *Tao Te Ching*, Verse 18: “If you need rules to be kind and just, if you act virtuous, this is a sure sign that virtue is absent. Thus we see the great hypocrisy.”

³⁴ **Romans 10:4**

³⁵ **Galatians 5:1** Christ consciousness sets us free to willingly and instinctively follow spiritual principles. We align ourselves with the Divine naturally without having to force ourselves to obey rules and regulations that we may not even understand.

³⁶ **Romans 13:9**

“Love doesn’t harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”³⁷

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God.”³⁸

“Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”³⁹

They, when they heard it, glorified God. They said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law.”⁴⁰ Your words have supported him who was falling. You have made firm the feeble knees.”⁴¹

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.⁴² They said therefore to him, “What must we do, that we may work the works of God?”⁴³

He said to them, “Wherever you enter into a house, stay there until you depart from there.”⁴⁴ Don’t turn aside to go after vain things which can’t profit or deliver, for they are vain.”⁴⁵

³⁷ **Romans 13:10** The Christ spirit of love and forgiveness taught and modeled by Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament system of laws and commandments. The Ten Commandments are not disproven, they are just made redundant.

Anytime we want to change our attitude or behavior, there is always an initial process of following rules and instructions, and doing specific things that others have found useful in the past. Then at some point, if we are successful, a light bulb goes on, and we begin to grasp the true spirit of the teaching. We identify with this underlying spirit, we agree with it, we approve of it, and we try to emulate it in all that we do, think, and say. At this point, all those rules, instructions, and techniques are not even needed.

³⁸ **Hebrews 6:1** Eckhart Tolle: “Never personalize Christ.”

³⁹ **Romans 15:33**

⁴⁰ **Acts 21:20** Being “zealous for the law” is an important part of our spiritual path. Enthusiasm, which derives from the Greek “en theos” or “in God,” connects us to Spirit and keeps things fresh on our long and winding road.

⁴¹ **Job 4:4**

⁴² **Mark 4:33** [*“He” is Paul*]

⁴³ **John 6:28**

⁴⁴ **Mark 6:10**

⁴⁵ **1 Samuel 12:21**

They weren't able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.⁴⁶ But he said to them, "Not all men can receive this saying, but those to whom it is given."⁴⁷

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers."⁴⁸ Serve Yahweh with gladness. Come before his presence with singing!"⁴⁹

The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never been educated?"⁵⁰

When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with other languages and prophesied.⁵¹

They said to him, "Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand, and one at your left hand, in your glory."⁵² The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.⁵³

"Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God."⁵⁴ Praise Yah! Praise God in his sanctuary! Praise him in his heavens for his acts of power!"⁵⁵

⁴⁶ **Acts 6:10**

⁴⁷ **Matthew 19:11**

⁴⁸ **3 John 1:2**

⁴⁹ **Psalm 100:2** Aristotle: "Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence."

⁵⁰ **John 7:15** None of the Beatles had much formal higher education. Fortunately, they were all blessed with above average intelligence and tremendous curiosity, in addition to their musical talent.

⁵¹ **Acts 19:6** John Tamny, *Forbes* magazine: "The amazing story of the Beatles reminds us that economic freedom beats classroom learning when it comes to getting a leg up by many miles. Schooling was never going to represent the way up and out for the Beatles, but freedom to do that which most ignited their passions was, and did."

⁵² **Mark 10:37** Paul: "If you love your life, everybody will love you too."

⁵³ **Psalm 119:30**

⁵⁴ **2 Corinthians 1:21** Paul: "Life is quite mysterious and quite miraculous. Every time I come to write a song, there's this magic little thing where I go, 'Ooh, ooh, it's happening again.' I just sit down at the piano and go, 'Oh my God, I don't know this one,' and suddenly there's a song."

⁵⁵ **Psalm 150:2**