

Seeing God

A summary of the teachings of Jesus can be found in just three chapters of the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7, which are known as “The Sermon on the Mount”; and at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount there are eight admonitions called the Beatitudes that have some parallel with the eight-fold path of Buddhism or even the eight steps of Patañjali’s Yoga Sūtra-s.

While all these Beatitudes are of value to us as seekers, two are particularly significant and very often misunderstood. One is, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” The other is, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Meek means, I don’t know but I want to know. It is not a stance of weakness, as is sometimes thought, it is a stance of strength that recognizes that there is something that we don’t know, but that we want to know. Therefore, we seek a *guru*, a teacher.

No matter what part of creation we want to conquer, to inherit, the best way to do it is to admit our ignorance, that there is something we don’t know, but that we want to know. Therefore, we approach someone who does know and learn from them. It applies to everything in this world, whether it is trade, knowledge, or spiritual understanding—I don’t know, but I want to know. This attitude is the secret to mastery of anything in this world, including spiritual understanding.

On the other hand, if we want to see God, we are told to be pure in heart. But why can’t we see God by just being meek? The reason is that seeing God, in this biblical sense, means something different: It doesn’t mean a new vision, something we have never seen before, but rather what we now see with our present consciousness becomes transformed. We see it, in Gurudev’s expression, from a different angle of vision. This is a very important distinction that we as seekers gradually have to develop. It is not totally unlike Lord Kṛṣṇa telling Arjuna “Those who worship the lesser Gods go to them. Those who worship Me come to Me.”

We can think we are worshipping the Lord when we have great experiences or *samādhi*-s. We can think that we have found the Lord, we are seeing the Lord. But if we want to come to Lord Kṛṣṇa, if we want to truly see God, there is only one way and that is by wanting nothing, by being pure in heart, by gradually wearing away all our desires, all desires to

inherit anything of this earth including spiritual understanding and experiences. We must become nothing, and then we shall truly see God by becoming God.