

with the goods of our own lives, is clearly *prospective* not *retrospective*. It is not concerned with how well you have behaved in the past but with getting you to behave better in the future.

The religion of Jesus is not built around death. It is not about sin and how to balance it with suffering. It is not about judgment and punishment—or even about obedience and reward. It is precisely against all such dark and fear-provoking “measuring” ideas. It is about God’s unconditional love and endless creativity. It is about the unlimited potential for goodness in people, for godliness in the world, for beauty in the earth and in human souls. It is about the “kingdom,” *malchut*, the union of God with people for unlimited creativity.<sup>19</sup>

This is the treasure hidden and buried in a field (Matt. 13:44), for which we should forsake all other pursuits, all other ways of envisioning our life and purpose in existence. Sell all your petty ambitions, says Jesus, and invest everything in this Great Work. Join the big time. Enlarge your vision. You were made for something enormous. Open your eyes and see it!

The whole of the Jesus ministry undertakes to tell us that we are beloved children of God and have nothing to fear: You belong to the realm of eternal life. You are safe, so relax and let yourselves love one another. Heal one another, feed one another. Live, love, laugh and be happy. God is in the midst of creating a wonderful world, and you’re needed to make it grow properly from the inside out. Therefore be creative. Color the world with imagination. Sing new worlds into existence. Dance with joy!<sup>20</sup>

You are children of God. You have an umbilical connection to the Divine Life, to an inexhaustible source of existence, goodness, novelty, and beauty. Draw on it. Nurse from it. How? By faith: by being convinced of it and of your own sure connection to it, by being confident in it, by trusting it, by expecting good things, by envisioning great things, by imagining new ways to express divine love in the world. We might even say that “faith” is our *capacity to draw* life and nourishment, healing and joy, from this Source. Faith is closely paralleled by our “works,” our *power to give*, about which Jesus’ teaching says to us: You are capable, not helpless. The divine intelligence and energy are in you. When you are productive and generous, when you send your energy *out* (*agapē*), when you don’t try to accumulate and hoard it (*eros*), you thereby *draw more* into the world from that inexhaustible Source.<sup>21</sup>

So don’t be afraid. You are very valuable to God (Matt. 10:31). You can do what needs to be done. Don’t wait for something magical and supernatural to transform the world. All of us together are the

Messiah. We have to do it ourselves, it has to come from the inside out.<sup>22</sup>

Believe in God, and believe also in yourselves. Even a little sure confidence coupled with vision can perform miracles. Mustard-seed faith can move mountains. Understand how the divine energy works by constantly giving itself away. Tie into this energy with faith, hope, and imagination, and nothing will be impossible for you (Matt. 17:20).