

Our SAI Times

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A segment from Sai Baba's discourse of 1998

**I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,
NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL,
BUT THE WILL OF HIM
THAT SENT ME.**

(Jesus in John 6:38)

It was Easter Sunday at Prashanthi (Southern-India) when word circulated among the Christian devotees that Swami had invited them to the mandir to hear Him speak about the life and significance of Jesus. The devotees rushed to the temple to get as close to Sai Baba as possible. When all was quiet, Swami began:

"Two thousand years ago, when narrow pride and thick ignorance defiled mankind, Jesus came as the embodiment of Love and Compassion and lived amongst men, holding forth the highest ideals of life. Jesus was to shatter the darkness that enveloped the world.

He was great because He showed the value of Sadhana and the equanimity that can come through Sadhana.

Jesus passed through the entire process and inspired all mankind by His example and teachings, to be generous and kind, detached and discriminating, and to bring Light and Love to all. He attracted people by His miracles and transformed them into apostles and exemplary servants of man.

He attempted to rebuild mankind on the basis of Love, but was crucified by little men who feared that their tiny towers of hate and greed would be toppled by His teachings.

Jesus had 12 disciples, most of whom had faith in Him and lived His teachings. But the disciple who was most loved, Judas by name, decided to work against the master, yielding to the low temptation of a few pieces of silver. He could not find joy in life after this treachery. His mind gave him no peace; he had to seek refuge in suicide.

Meanwhile Jesus was surrounded and bound, and crowned by the crowd who captured Him with a crown of thorns. A thorny fence around a tree is a clear proof that the tree has edible fruits in plenty.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Jesus sacrificed himself for the sake of mankind. A person bound and beaten by the police cannot say that he has sacrificed anything, for he is not a free man. Let us pay attention to the sacrifice that Jesus made while free, out of His own volition. He sacrificed His happiness, prosperity, comfort, safety, and position; He braved the enmity of the powerful. He refused to yield or compromise. He renounced the 'ego', which is the toughest thing to get rid of. Honour Him for these. He willingly sacrificed the desires with which the body torments man; this is the sacrifice greater than the sacrifice of the body under duress."