

## IRAQ

- Iraq has weapons we don't like. We think Iraq should destroy those weapons. Many countries have weapons we don't like. The United Kingdom has these weapons. The United States has these weapons. India has these weapons. Pakistan has these weapons. China has these weapons. Israel has these weapons. We do not destroy our own weapons. We do not go to war with the United States to force the United States to destroy their weapons. We do not go to war with India to force India to destroy their weapons. We do not go to war with Pakistan, or with China, or with Israel, to force those countries to destroy their weapons.
- Since the time of Thomas Aquinas the accepted Christian view of the ethics of conflict has rested on the idea that there can be a just war. Just war arguments were invented to justify what we wanted to do; to reconcile our ideas of dominance, self defence, protection of territory, desire for economic power, with Christian precepts.
- Compare the words and intentions of our Government to go to war against the people of Iraq, compare these words and intentions in this Christian country, with the words and intentions of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Since September 11, we say it is now OK to kill someone we don't like. Might is right, we say. We are right, we say.
- Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the merciful. Ye are the salt of the earth. Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they shall see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- Christians cannot compromise with the hope of empire or the need for oil. Christians cannot seek alignment with a political doctrine, a state policy. Christians are here to rub salt in the wound, to light up the right way, the uncomfortable way.
- It is said we must make war against the people of Iraq because Iraq flouts United Nations resolutions; But so does the Israel, and we support Israel.
- He who is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement. I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you. Agree with thine adversary quickly. Resist not evil; but whosoever striketh thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- It is said we must make war against the people of Iraq because the President of Iraq killed his own people; but so did General Pinochet, and we supported General Pinochet. So did President Putin in the part of his federation called Chechnya, and we supported President Putin.

- Judge not, that ye be not judged. Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite; first cast out the beam that is within thine own eye; and then thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.
- The United Kingdom has atomic bombs and the means to deliver them. We have hydrogen bombs and the means to deliver them. Maybe we have biological and chemical weapons and the means to deliver those too. We certainly did in the past.
- Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even unto them.
- It is said that we must make war against the people of Iraq because we are fearful that the President of Iraq might order an attack upon us.
- Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheeps' clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- What did we do all the while we were threatened with far greater firepower by the Soviet Union? We had a policy of Mutually Assured Destruction. MAD. We made a joke of it. We knew it was mad and we called it mad, but that was our policy. We did not attack the Soviet Union. Why now are we determined to attack Iraq?
- The Christian should not kill; it has been said that the limit of the Christian position is pacifism. Many Christians are not pacifists. Why not? Reconciling these high ideals, these impossible ambitions, with the grubby world in which we live, is difficult, but that is what as Christians we are called to try to do.

[749 words. At 120 per minute, 6 minutes]