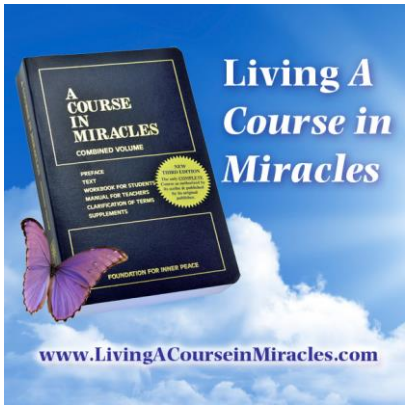

December 05, 2017

How to Stop Teaching Persecution

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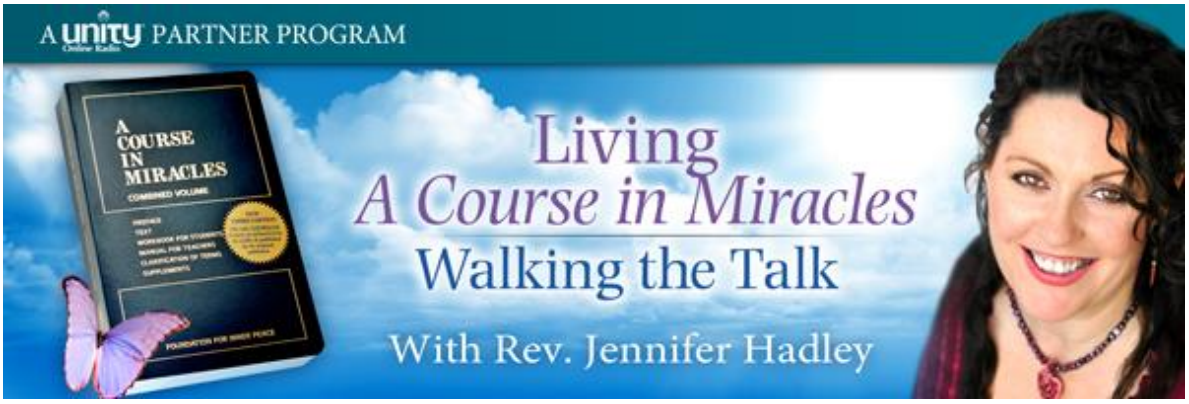

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December 5, 2017

How to Stop Teaching Persecution

Welcome to *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk* with Reverend Jennifer Hadley, a beloved teacher of the *Course*, who has helped thousands learn how to express their beliefs from moment to moment in their everyday lives. Get ready to focus on your intent to be the Love, be the Peace through practical application.

Here is your host, Reverend Jennifer Hadley.

Jennifer Bonjour! So happy to be with you! Oh, my goodness!

Taking that breath of Love and gratitude with you as we tune upward to the Higher Holy Spirit Self. Our topic today is, "How to Stop Teaching Persecution." Spirit led me to this, and oh, it's juicy! I don't think I've ever talked about this, and I'm excited to see what comes through for me and you!

Opening Prayer

Let's begin, as we always do, with that breath of Love and gratitude, and placing our hand on our heart, wholeheartedly declaring that we are willing to stop teaching persecution, whether it's known or unknown by us. We're letting it go. We're invoking the Holy Spirit into our awareness.

We share the same Mind with each other, with all humanity, with all life, with the Holy Spirit, with Jesus, with all that there is, and we are grateful and thankful, right now, to make this a **healing** time.

We're consciously choosing to awaken from the dream of separation. We're consciously **choosing** to accept the Atonement for ourselves. We are consciously **choosing** to be willing to go the other way, to open our hearts and minds to the truth that sets us free.

In gratitude, we share the benefits with everyone, because we are One with them. In gratitude, we **let** it be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Yes! Yes, yes, yes!

Thank You! - Fundraising Goal Met

I'm so grateful! So grateful to everyone who participates in this field of Love. I'd like to say, first of all, that I'm just so grateful, so, so grateful, for everyone who contributes in **any way** to the expansion, the Clarity, the power of Love in the Power of Love Ministry.

The Power of Love Ministry is the ministry that I founded in 2013. We're a non-profit organization, offering free classes, paid classes and many, many different forms of free inspiration to a global audience, and it's all steeped in *A Course in Miracles* or directly speaking of *A Course in Miracles*.

For the first time, we did a real fundraiser. We had some beautiful people who love what we're doing, and have shared in the experiences of the Power of Love Ministry for a number of years, and have really benefited from it, and decided that they'd like to help us to offer even more free support, more low-cost support, to people all over the world.

And so, they, amongst themselves, raised $25,000 anonymously to fund this whole experience of this fundraising campaign. They said, "We're putting up $25,000 as a matching grant, and inviting you to see who would like to participate in this and double **their** gift by participating in the matching."

And so, we've had hundreds of people come forth with donations of all different sizes, to help us reach that goal of $25,000 to meet that matching grant. We've never attempted something like this, and it was a big effort. A number of people got involved to support it.

And we **did** it! **We did it**! I speak "we" meaning you, because **so** many of you from the listeners of the radio show are supporting the radio show and made your gift at this time so that we can, and we are, finishing up transcribing all the radio shows and getting all those transcripts posted on the Living*ACourseInMiracles*.com website. The website for the radio shows. So, that's where the transcripts are, at LivingACourseinMiracles.com/radio. You can easily search in there. Of

course, you can sign up for the podcast, if you haven't, at iTunes or Stitcher.

I have just this huge depth of gratitude, and I've learned **so much** through the experience. That's the thing about sharing. Whenever I share, I'm learning. That's so fundamental to the *A Course in Miracles* teaching, and that's what teaching is to me, is sharing -- sharing what I've learned, sharing what I **am** learning, what I'm in the **process** of learning and discovering, sharing what my questions are, what my concerns are.

A number of people have told me that they were really **shifted** by the way we did this fundraising campaign. It just so happened that it coincided with my birthday, which was a week ago, and sometimes people send me gifts, gift cards, Amazon gift cards. One year, I was looking to buy a new camera to use for my blog pictures that I take and place on the blog, and people sent me Amazon gift cards of different amounts, which was great. I was able to purchase that camera. It's lovely when people send me gifts, and gifts of money, as people do with ministers. It's wonderful!

And this year, I just truly wished for everything to go to the ministry. That was my heart's desire, and so I made an ask on my birthday, give a birthday gift, if you'd like, a tax-deductible birthday gift, to the ministry and I received it with Love.

Spiritually Shifting From Critical Relationship

Some people told me, "Wow! I would not have had the ability to ask for something like that, or ask on my birthday." I'm learning all the time.

That's one of the great things about becoming a minister, for me, and becoming a counselor. I became a Science of Mind Practitioner in the Agape Community in the year 2000, and I became a minister in that community in 2006. And so, one of the things I realized in ministerial school was that in order for me to actually be able to give, and give, and give, and give I have to be a **much better receiver**!

We were just talking about this in *Masterful Living* class last night. We were talking about -- we do a lot of classes in *Masterful Living* about relationship, because *A Course in Miracles* tells us, our relationships are our salvation, that our relationships with our brothers and sisters in our human experience on planet Earth, those are the number one **tool** that we have to

undo the ego attachments, the cravings, the addictive-compulsive tendencies and temptations, the needing, the wanting, and also all the aversions.

Undoing of all those various forms of attachments, opinions, judgments, the hurt, the jealousy, the blame, the shame, the regret, the resentment. All these various forms of judgments, attack thoughts, self-attack thoughts. Our relationships are the number one tool, and one of the things that many spiritual students go through in their experience of healing -- it's so common, it's so, so, common -- that **most** of us, when we really start to dive deep, we start to wish to pull away from people, and to be less engaged with people, to have more alone time with God, or more quiet time.

Oftentimes, people start to turn down the amount -- you know, they're not reading as many magazines, not reading as many books, they're talking on the phone less --unless you're me, talking, talking, talking in classes and counseling, but I'm not talking about myself so much. We've become much more protective of our mind, and what we're entertaining in our mind, and what we're giving our attention to, what we're putting our energy in.

And so, many people start to notice either that they're less interested in the relationships that they've **been** having, or that their relationships are shifting. That's always the case. But many people also start to say, "I feel like I'd like to isolate more." What it is, is it can be a number of things, but there is an internal shift that takes place. For many, many years, I really, really wanted a lot of alone time.

We've become much more protective of our mind: what we're entertaining, what we're giving our attention to, what we're putting our energy in.

Going back to the persecution, which is our theme for today, about looking at the subtle ways that we teach that we're persecuted, one of the ways is that we have relationships with people who are highly critical of us.

And I know, I can say for myself, that I did use to have relationships where people were highly critical of me. I'll be honest with you, I still have relationships with those people, but those people are not anywhere near as critical of me as they **used** to be. They have really, really shifted, and they're much less critical of themselves, simply because **my** whole

approach has shifted. My whole approach is shifted to **my** thinking, **my** life, **my** relationships. Or I could even just say, my **experience** of this life, these relationships, and my taking responsibility for what I say, what I do, what I experience.

According to *A Course in Miracles,* that powerful, powerful section in the *Text,* that I've read so many times. I'm not going to read it right this minute. Well, okay. Spirit is saying, "Yeah! You are! You are, Blanche! You are!" Remember that reference? I remember that I used to --one of the things -- side note of no *A Course in Miracles* importance -- well, actually Holy Spirit is saying, "Oh yeah! No, there is an importance to it."

When I was a kid growing up, I love, like a **lot** of *A Course in Miracles* people, I found a lot of refuge -- oh, that's so funny -- a lot of refuge in movies. I used to love, on Sundays, we would get the Sunday paper. Our family never bought a TV Guide back in the day when you **needed** a guide to know what was on television. It would be in the newspaper and stuff.

But I like to plan, so I would get that TV Guide out of the Sunday paper --we were living in Rhode Island, *The Providence Journal* -- get that TV Guide out and they would have a movie section in the back, and I would go through that movie section on the back, and I'd, literally, would read it like a magazine and I would see what all the movies were. I'd get out a colored marker, and I would circle all the movies that I wished to watch, and I'd look and see when they were.

Because, for a while -- how old was I? When I was about, maybe 12, my dad came home from work one day, and my brother and I were watching *I Love Lucy* re-runs.

Loved the old *I Love Lucy* re-runs! **Love** Lucille Ball. So, so, funny. Gosh, she helps make fun of the ego so, so well. That's why she was so beloved, because you could see in her, always, that ego trying to work its way, and we could laugh at ourselves.

My dad came home one day from work, and said -- my father was a professor at Brown University then, and he said, "Hey, kids!" and neither my brother nor I looked up and acknowledged him. "Hey, kids!" No response.

And so, he and my mom made a decision, then, that our TV time was forever limited. And so, we got two hours a week after that, of television

that we could pick, commercial television. We could watch PBS as much as we wished, so we watched a lot of Zoom. I remember watching Zoom a lot.

I became less interested in television, but I always loved these old black and white movies with Jack Lemmon, and Bette Davis, and Walter Matthau, and -- oh! Just so many of those old black and white movies. Ah! I just **loved** them, all those old black and white movies. *Singing in the Rain* and Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Just so many different ones.

I now **know** what it was, was I was **learning** to how to understand personalities more, because the movies I liked were often the movies, like with Jack Lemmon, where there's always some kind of beautiful teaching about humanity.

So anyway, going **way** back to where I started with, "But you **are** Blanche!" *Who's Afraid of Baby Jane?* -- is that the name of it? --yeah, with Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, where Joan Crawford's in a wheelchair, and they're sisters, and her sister, Bette Davis has virtually kept her a prisoner, and is really torturing her in a certain way, emotionally, mentally, and a bit physically. And there's nothing Joan can do about it, because she's trapped in the house in the wheelchair.

At one point, Joan Crawford says, "Oh! If **only** I could get out! If **only** I wasn't in this wheelchair!" And Bette Davis says, in classic Bette Davis, "But you **are**, Blanche! You **are** in a wheelchair!"

Anyway. So, nothing to do with *A Course in Miracles*. But, there it is. [laughs] For your listening pleasure. Stories of my life, by Jennifer Hadley.

Responsibility is the Price of Peace

Responsibility for Sight. Chapter 21, which is entitled *Reason and Perception*. So helpful to us. Section II, *The Responsibility for Sight*. Alright. Just because this really has to do with persecution, right? When we feel **persecuted,** we can go right to this section, where it starts with,

"We have repeated how little is asked of you to learn this course."

So, in other words, quit your complaining! [laughs]

"It is the same small willingness you need to have your whole relationship transformed to joy--"

So, this is a teaching on relationship.

"*...the little gift you offer to the Holy spirit for which He gives you everything; the very little on which salvation rests; the tiny change of mind by which the crucifixion is changed to resurrection. And being true, it is so simple that it cannot fail to be completely understood. Rejected yes, but not ambiguous. And if you choose against it now it will not be because it is obscure, but rather that this little cost seemed, in your judgment, to be too much to pay for peace."*

So, here's the price of Peace. It says,

"This is the only thing that you need to do for vision, happiness, release from pain and the complete escape from sin, all to be given you."

This is the recipe, right here.

"*Say only this, but mean it with no reservations--"*

That's the **rub**, right there. **No reservations**.

"*...for here the power of salvation lies."*

Here it is.

"*I am responsible for what I see. I choose the feelings I experience, and I decide upon the goal I would achieve. And everything that seems to happen to me I ask for, and receive as I have asked. Deceive yourself no longer that you are helpless in the face of what is done to you. Acknowledge but that you have been mistaken, and all effects of your mistakes will disappear."*

Everything that seems to happen to me, I asked for, and receive as I have asked."

Alright!

I'm going to invite you now to look at, where in your life you feel persecuted, attacked, unrelentingly criticized, maybe even by your own ego. Look at that place in your life, and say to yourself, "I've been mistaken. I can see that now. I've been mistaken. I'm **willing** to see that now. Everything that seems to happen to me, I asked for, and receive as I have asked." Just **feel** that for a moment. Yeah.

For me, the shorthand is, "I'm responsible for what I see, and everything is just as I wish it to be." And then, sometimes, I turn my head to the side, I put my finger on my chin, and I say, even in the midst of something I **really** don't like, and I can say, "Hmm! I wonder what benefit is in **this**? **How** is this blessing me? I'd like to see, because I **am** responsible for what I see, and

everything **is** just as I wish it to be. Well! What was I thinking when I brought this into being? Let me **understand** it. Let me know it now."

See, the ego is never going to figure anything out. But, our Higher Holy Spirit Self has everything ready and waiting for us to be **willing** to take responsibility, and then we can see what the benefits are. "I am responsible for what I see, and everything is just as I wish it to be."

Remember. *"Acknowledge but that you have been mistaken."*

So, we have been mistaken about being **persecuted**, about being attacked, and Jesus is going to tell us exactly what that's all about in His teachings on persecution.

Masterful Living 2018 and New Year's Reboot

Before I go into that part of the *Text* on persecution, I'd just like to mention a thing before we go to break. If you've been thinking about taking my yearlong *Masterful Living Course*, registration closes January 11th, and our classes begin on January 1st. Of course, if you can't be there for the first class, you can get the download. I'm doing a special three-hour first class this year. It's my *New Year's Reboot* class, and anyone can take that first class. I'm doing it differently this year. I'm very excited about what Spirit is bringing through for us this year. It's just going to be off the hook! I feel it, truly! I'm excited for my own spiritual growth, and everyone else that's coming along.

If you register now for *Masterful Living* and don't wait until January, you can also have a $300 discount on my *New Year's Reboot* Retreat, which is on December 28th to January 1st. Five days, four nights. You can have a $300 discount if you are in *Masterful Living*, if you register now. All the details are at JenniferHadley.com.

Of course, you can come to the Retreat if you're not in *Masterful Living*, so we've got that wide open, and the Retreat is at Unity Village, which is where we're broadcasting the radio show from. That's pretty cool! It's going to be a great time to be there. Nice, quiet time of year.

I **love** going on retreat at New Year's. It's such a **great** time to, as I say, "Take out the trash! Clear out the mental and emotional clutter, and open up wide and really anchor what it is you'd like to experience next year." It is a very powerful time, and I'm always amazed at how, on my retreats, we

can take out so much trash, clear so much clutter, really let deep, deep, long-held things go. Things we thought we'd never get over, people either **fully** let them go, or they make a **huge** amount of progress. And we have so much fun doing it! We laugh. Sometimes, we cry, but we do a lot of laughing and we have a lot of fun. It's powerful. It's good. It's intense. It's deep. It's yummy!

So, I know that if *Masterful Living* or the *New Year's Reboot* Retreat call to you, you can find out all the details at JenniferHadley.com.

And, if you'd still like to make a contribution this year to Power of Love Ministry, we accept, we accept, we accept! We've got so many things on our docket of expansion, your funds are always welcome to help us offer more free things to more people around the globe.

We're going to come back and talk about persecution, see what Jesus has to say about that in the *Text* of *A Course in Miracles*.

I am Jennifer Hadley. You're listening to *A Course in Miracles*, on Unity Online Radio, where we are truly living the Love, we're walking the talk., and, I'll be right back.

Thank you for tuning in for *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk.*

Get ready to focus on your intent to be the Love, be the Peace through practical application as we return to *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk.*

The Best Defense? Protect the Truth

Jennifer And, we're back! Just like that!

We're talking about persecution and understanding it, so we're looking at the *Text*, Chapter 3, *The Innocent Perception*, and Section I is entitled *Atonement without Sacrifice*. This is a major point, because a lot of what's in *A Course in Miracles*, Jesus will talk about things that He feels the Christians have misunderstood and teach incorrectly, perverting His teachings.

And so, one thing is about the crucifixion, and the resurrection, and that He says, right in the beginning of this Section, that

"If the crucifixion is seen from an upside-down point of view---"

Remember, the ego's always looking at things in the opposite way of what they really are. It says,

"...it does appear as if God permitted and even encouraged one of His Sons to suffer because he was good."

In other words, if you look at the crucifixion **incorrectly,** you will see, interpret it, as though Jesus had been persecuted. And here's Jesus telling us,

"This particularly unfortunate interpretation, which arose out of projection, has led many people to be bitterly afraid of God."

Here's the thing -- why would religious leaders teach people to be afraid of God? Why would they **do** that?

Well, there's a number of reasons, but one of the chief reasons was, and this became a very big part of the early Christian church -- you know, once you have the Nicene Creed, and people start rewriting history, and rewriting the teachings of Jesus -- the idea comes in that people can **pay** to have their sins **removed**. So, if they're **afraid** of God, they don't want to go **directly** to God, so they hire someone, a middleman, to do that negotiation, and that's the priest, so that worked that way.

Many people are terribly **afraid** of God, and don't even know it. And people are really, really **angry** with God and oftentimes don't wish to talk about it. I think that's one of the great things that comes up sometimes in my *Masterful Living Courses*, people will talk about a fear of God, anger towards God, so that we can resolve these things, resolve and dissolve them, so they're not running our experience any more.

Many people are terribly afraid of God, and don't even know it.

He says here, Jesus says,

"Such anti-religious concepts enter into many religions. Yet the real Christian should pause and ask, 'How could this be?' Is it likely that God Himself would be capable of the kind of thinking which His Own words have clearly stated is unworthy of His Son?"

Then He goes on to say,

"The best defense, as always, is not to attack another's position, but rather to protect the truth."

Here's how we avoid teaching persecution. We decide to **protec**t the truth. Alright. So, what does that mean? He says,

"*It is unwise to accept any concept if you have to invert a whole frame of reference in order to justify it."*

In other words, why teach that salvation comes through the crucifixion, Jesus' crucifixion, if you have to turn everything up on its head? The crucifixion was not the **liberation**. It was the Atonement, the Ascension, the resurrection. That's the thing there that He's teaching. So, the crucifixion is actually, in **my** mind, it's **part** of the resurrection that, when Jesus' body so decimated, clearly dead, the resurrection has that much more power than, let's say, if He had a heart attack or something like that.

But, the fact that He suffered so much, so visibly, in front of so many, and then to have a sword run right through His guts, particularly in that day and age, and then He's locked up in the tomb, how is He going to survive that? He's dead. He was dead before He was put in the tomb, anyway. His body was.

The Illusion Shown Through the Crucifixion

But then the resurrection, and Him walking amongst His students, He is able to teach the resurrection, and that **this world is an illusion.** Right? He goes on here to say,

"Persecution frequently results in an attempt to 'justify' the terrible misperception that God Himself persecuted His Own Son on behalf of salvation. The very words are meaningless. It has been particularly difficult to overcome this because, although the error itself is no harder to correct than any other, many have been unwilling to give it up in view of its prominent value as a defense."

Alright. So, what does that mean? He goes, and explains it very clearly right here. He says,

"In milder forms --"

So, milder forms of this defense and persecution complex,

"In milder forms a parent says --"

when it attacks, when it's beating a child,

"…this hurts me more than it hurts you."… a parent says, 'This hurts me more than it hurts you,' and feels exonerated in beating a child."

It feels justified. Exonerated means "guilt-free". "There's no need for me to feel guilty in punishing this child, because the punishment hurts **me** more to inflict it upon you than it does for **you** to receive it."

And Jesus says,

"Can you believe our Father really thinks this way? It is so essential that all such thinking be dispelled that we must be sure that nothing of this kind remains in your mind. I was not 'punished' because you *were bad."*

Jesus says, "I was not 'punished' because you were bad."

In other words, He did not die for our sins. Right? And just as an aside, I've mentioned this before, that was something that Paul, who wrote all those Epistles, wrote in one of his Epistles to the Romans, and he told the Romans, "Jesus died for **your** sins." That was Paul's thought about it. Jesus never said anything remotely like, "I'm dying for your sins." He says,

"I was not 'punished' because you were bad. *The wholly benign lesson the Atonement teaches is lost if it is tainted with this kind of distortion in any form."*

Then He goes on later, in Chapter 6, He talks about persecution again, and He says -- and He's talking about attacking other people and being attacked. He said,

"Assault can ultimately be made only on the body."

Which isn't real. No one can assault our mind, our Spirit. He says,

"There is little doubt that one body can assault another, and even destroy it. Yet if destruction itself is impossible, anything that is destructible cannot be real."

It cannot be eternal. It cannot be everlasting.

"Its destruction, therefore, does not justify anger."

The destruction of a body, like the murder, the attack, physical attack of one person on another, does not justify anger, **because** the body's not real and --

"Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists,"

Right? This is the foundation. It is right at the beginning of the *Text*.

"To the extent to which you believe that it does, you are accepting false premises and teaching them to others."

Right? We're looking at how **not** to teach persecution. So, when we feel angry because a child has been murdered or raped, it's totally understandable, **and** it's not that we're wrong or bad, it's that, let's take that anger, go to Jesus, go to the Holy Spirit and say, "I get that I must be thinking incorrectly. This is how I **feel**. Help me to **see** the truth and **know** the truth."

Destruction of the Body Doesn't Justify Anger

Instead of defending our anger, and our upset, and our opinions, and our fear, and our doubt, and our worry, and our jealousy, and all the different upsets and causes of upsets, let's defend the truth in our own mind. Let's teach how to, instead, take a stand for the truth.

"I know that I'm never upset for the reason I think. So, something is upsetting me that is not true that can be relieved. 'Spirit, Jesus, relieve me of these thoughts and beliefs.'"

Whereas, what many people **mistakenly** do is -- and it's just an error. It's just an error. It's not a crime or a sin, but just an error, we ask for relief from the **feelings,** and this is what Jesus talks about in Chapter 2 when He's teaching about fear and conflict, and cause and effect. He's saying, "Instead of asking Me to remove the fear, ask for help with the causes of fear," which are the thinking.

And that's when He says, and I was talking about this in September. I forget the name of the episode, but in September I was talking about turning over the misperceptions. Maybe it was in the *Living A Course in Miracles* classes, which are still available for free. Maybe it was in the radio show. I think it was in the radio show. I can't remember now. Sorry.

He says here that the body's "*.....destruction, therefore, does not justify anger.*"

I'm just inviting you, because many people get so, so angry, and hurt, and fearful because they've had an accident, let's say, a car accident, and they've become crippled as a result of it, in their physical body. And, people are so, so angry because someone's been killed in an accident, wounded, maimed, killed. People are so, so upset because they've had a medical procedure that didn't go as planned, and now there's a lot of anger, and

hurt, and fear, because of what's going on in the body, and this is what He's telling us.

"...anything that is destructible cannot be real." Therefore, *"Its destruction does not justify anger."*

Again, we're in Chapter 6, Section I. He says,

"The message the crucifixion was intended to teach--"

That tells you, right there, that the crucifixion was **intended**, and it was intended to teach something. I mean, just think of how masterful Jesus was. He could turn water into wine. He could turn -- you know, He could pull food and things out of the ethers.

He is not alone in being able to do that. If you read texts about the ancient Tibetans and people in India, these things were **taught**. They were known. That's why in those years between His teens and His 20s, He was learning from those yogis and those teachers. He was **learning** all of that, so He could do it, so He could do things like bi-locate, appear and disappear. There's **no way** they would **ever** have been able to capture Jesus or submit His body to any of that if He did not **wish** it to be so. So, again, He's saying,

"The message the crucifixion was intended to teach was that it is not necessary to perceive any form of assault in persecution, because you cannot be *persecuted."*

What? So, think of, there are whole cultures, religious groups, social groups, cultural groups, that they're **very** much oriented around, they are persecuted. That's their **thing.** It doesn't mean that they're bad or wrong or stupid. They're **learning** something. They're **discovering** something in the way that they're doing it.

"*What could you not accept if you but knew that everything was gently planned for your good?"*

Our Perception of Persecution is Insane

But let's look at our own life. Where are we feeling persecuted?

I used to feel persecuted. I felt persecuted at work on a couple of jobs, where I felt like somebody was trying to persecute me, right? And I felt that way in relationship, like people were trying to persecute me. Consider where **you** have felt that way.

And, rather than try to understand it -- because, remember, the ego tries to understand what the Spirit totally **knows**, designed, and is executing for a purpose. Right?

I understand that perhaps some people might not be familiar with the word "persecute". To persecute someone is to harass them. It's to continuously attack them and to punish them, to go after them. You know, sometimes it can just be really harassing. That's a good way to say it, and harass and punish, those are probably the two best words. It says here, if you respond to someone trying to persecute you with anger, you must be equating yourself with the destructible, with the body, and therefore you're -- you are -- regarding yourself insanely.

"If you respond with anger, you must be equating yourself with the destructible, and are therefore regarding yourself insanely."

So, right there, that's where you can take a stand for the truth. Right? And, He says a little bit later here, *"Remember --"* Actually, I'm going to read this whole paragraph. He says,

"I have made it perfectly clear that I am like you and you are like me, but our fundamental equality can be demonstrated only through joint decision."

Right? Because we share the same mind, He's telling us.

"You are free to perceive yourself as persecuted if you choose."

Go ahead, you're free!

"When you do choose to react that way, however, you might remember that I was persecuted as the world judges, and did not share this evaluation for myself. And because I did not share it, I did not strengthen it. I therefore offered a different interpretation of attack, and one which I want to share with you. If you will believe it, you will help me teach it.

"As I have said before, 'As you teach so shall you learn.'"

So, we decide to, "Oh, okay! I'm going to teach the truth. I'm going to teach that when I feel anger, and I feel justified because I feel attacked, because I feel harassed, because I feel punished, I'm going to drop that anger and say, 'My anger is never justified.'"

Right? *A Course in Miracles*, *"Anger is never justified"*.

"And instead, I'm going to defend the truth." I may not know what it is in that moment, except for I could say to myself --and, I might not **believe** it in that moment, but I could say to myself, "Alright. The teaching is that I **cannot** be persecuted, because I am not a body, and **only** the body can be persecuted. I'd like to understand it and believe it and teach it, right here, right now. I'm taking a stand in defense of the truth."

You don't have to **believe** it. That's one thing that Jesus makes clear in the *Course*. You don't have to believe this. Just **act** as if you do. Just do the practices in the *Workbook*, anyway.

So, He says here,

"If you react as if you are persecuted, you are teaching persecution. This is not a lesson a Son of God should want to teach if he is to realize his own salvation."

What You Believe You Will Teach

Let's choose our salvation instead of teaching persecution. This comes in really handy at family gatherings. You feel attacked. You feel persecuted. You feel harassed or punished by someone in your family or some situation? Anger is **never** justified.

Don't **deny** your anger. That's not helpful. Oh, no! That just gets it all backed up in your system. Acknowledge that you feel angry. Allow yourself to say, "I feel angry right now! I'm really feeling it, and I know that I'm never upset for the reason I think, and I know that anger is never justified. So, I'm not going to try and **justify** how I feel, but I **am** just going to let these feelings move through my system. I'm going to give them all to the Holy Spirit for healing. I'm taking all these feelings, the anger -- which I'm not trying to justify, and I'm not trying to retaliate -- and I'm giving it all to the Holy Spirit for transformation, for transmutation. I'm willing to have it all be transcended." And He says here,

"Rather, teach your own perfect immunity --"

So rather than teach persecution,

"...teach your own perfect immunity, which is the truth in you, and realize that it--"

The truth.

"...cannot be assailed."

So, no one can attack the truth. It's not even possible.

"Do not try to protect it yourself --"

Don't try to protect the truth,

"...or you are believing that it is assailable."

If you're trying to protect the truth, you are believing it can be attacked. It can't be attacked.

"You are not asked to be crucified, which was part of my own teaching contribution. You are merely asked to follow my example in the face of much less extreme temptations to misperceive, and not to accept them as false justifications for anger. There can be no justification for the unjustifiable. Do not believe there is, and do not teach there is. Remember always that what you believe you will teach. Believe with me, and we will become equal as teachers."

Yeah, baby! That's what we're going for, Jesus! Thanks for the heads' up! **Woo!** Just in time for the holidays. [laughs]

Let's not end this year feeling persecuted. Let's remember our own true identity, our perfect immunity. Yes! And instead, energize the truth.

Oh, gosh! I love you! I'm so grateful for our connection via this radio show. Thank you **so much**, to everyone who's contributed, and donated, and made this radio show possible. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Closing Prayer

Ah! Let's take that breath of Love and gratitude, and be so grateful and be so thankful for the Love of God in us, the truth in us. So grateful that it's Divinely Planted, and that we **are** saying "Yes!" to it, saying "Yes!" to our healing, "Yes!" to our Wholeness, "Yes!" to our Freedom.

We're sharing the benefits with everyone, because we're One with them. In deep, deep abiding gratitude, we allow it to be. And so, it is. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Mwah! Have a great rest of your week! I love you!

A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show
with **Jennifer Hadley**

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