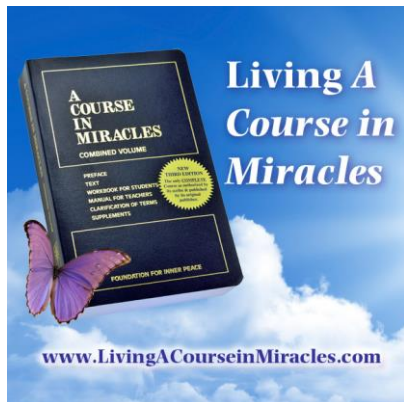


February 19, 2019



Relationship Substitute



 *Jennifer Hadley*
your daily shot of spiritual espresso

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February 19, 2019

Relationship Substitute

Welcome to *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk* with Reverend Jennifer Hadley. 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 Ah, bonjour! So good! So good! It's a beautiful day here in New Jersey!
I'm so grateful to join with you. Powerful, powerful transformation and healing is afoot! We're claiming it, we're saying "Yes!" to it. We are grateful that it is happening now, and it's happening **with** us and **for** us. Everything is with us and for us.
We are grateful, we are thankful to let it be! Mmm! So grateful to declare our willingness to have a revelation of holiness. Absolutely grateful! Yes!
I'm going to ride that wave of gratitude right into a prayer and a blessing as we begin.

Opening Prayer

Let's take that breath of Love and gratitude, and we place our hand on our heart. We are grateful and thankful to accept no substitutes. We are grateful and thankful to open ourselves to an unprecedented, unlimited flow of perfect Wisdom. We are waking up to our true identity. That is happening now. It's a now thing.

We are grateful and thankful to surrender all worry, all doubt, all fear, all resentment, all regret. Every bit of negativity, we're giving it over to that Higher Holy Spirit Self, and we are truly saying, "Yes!" to a revolution of Love.

We are grateful to share the benefits of our healing, our expansion, our Clarity with each and every other being, because we're One with them. In gratitude, we let it be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Yes! So grateful!

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Radio Show Archives & Podcasts

Our topic today is “Relationship Substitute” and I am going to invite you to turn, if you wish, in the *Text of A Course in Miracles* to Chapter 17, Section IV, entitled *The Two Pictures*. Sometimes people really remember this section. It stands out in their minds because of the imagery.

But we’re going to talk about relationship, because this is February, and in the month of February we focus on relationship here at this *A Course in Miracles* podcast.

Also, by the way, just a little note, that because iTunes does not allow for more than 300 episodes in the podcast, we’ve started a second podcast. I believe this is something like the 383rd broadcast of this show, radio show, and so the first 83 episodes are in the podcast called “[A Course in Miracles Archive](#).” So, if you get your podcasts from iTunes, you’re going to want to subscribe to **both** podcasts in order to be able to get all the episodes, if that’s your heart’s desire.

Now, if you’re podcasting on an Android device, iTunes doesn’t come into the picture, probably. Maybe, I don’t know, but you might be using Stitcher, and they don’t have that limitation. For iTunes users, on iPhones and iPads, Mac computers, that’s going to be a thing for you to consider.

Alright! Yeah, some good stuff in the archive. My inaugural episode, first ever, with Gary Renard, and then I believe the week after that was Ken Wapnick. We’ve got some great stuff in that first section.

Every week we move an episode from the original podcast, which is just called “[A Course in Miracles](#)” to the “[A Course in Miracles Archive](#)” podcast. If you’re on iTunes, that will matter to you.

A Look Back at the Beginning of POLM

The Two Pictures, Chapter 17, Section IV, *The Two Pictures*, two kinds of relationships. We’ve done a lot of episodes on this topic, holy relationship, special relationship. People have really, really appreciated the relationship episodes.

I think one of the best testimonials **ever** was someone who -- and you may be listening now. Forgive me, I don’t recall your name in this instant -- but you came up to me after one of Jon Mundy’s events in Manhattan, his “Miracles in Manhattan” events, maybe in 2017, 2018, and you let me

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know that you'd gotten engaged to be married, you'd fallen in love and gotten engaged to be married. And as I recall it, you told me that you felt that this radio broadcast and the episodes on relationship really helped you to shift your relationship experience.

That's wonderful! That's what we're all about. We're about being truly helpful, and I am so grateful, so grateful that these teachings exist and that sharing them together, we can actually understand them and live them.

For me, I'll just do a little historical trip here for a moment, and we'll get to the relationships and *The Two Pictures*.

Back in 2007, I started doing the Lessons. That's when I started doing the Lessons. and I started my Study Group on the phone. You can still get a bunch of those episodes. I did a weekly Study Group on the phone on Monday nights for four years, until I started the "[Living A Course in Miracles](#)" classes and then not long after that I started this radio broadcast. So, I stopped doing the Study Group and I started doing [Masterful Living](#), [Finding Freedom](#), and those things instead.

But when I started that Study Group, when I was first doing the Lessons, reading the *Text* in depth, I just had to talk about it. I was so excited by it, I had to talk about it.

I didn't feel like adding anymore driving to my schedule, because I was already doing a lot of driving living in L.A. and going to Agape all the time, and then starting my own spiritual community, all these things, so I started an on-the-phone Study Group. At first, it was just one or two people who would come and then it got bigger, and I learned how to manage. I was doing it on FreeConferenceCall.com back then. Sometimes we had one or two people. Sometimes there was just one other person in the group with me, and that's plenty! We can have a dialogue. It's wonderful that it's possible to be able to be connected, transcending time and space, in these ways. It's just wonderful, really, really wonderful.

God's Purpose of Relationships

Let's get back to *The Two Pictures*. In the beginning of this, it says -- in the beginning, God [laughs] -- it says,

"God established His relationship with you to make you happy --"

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Isn't that lovely? It's not something you would necessarily remember. Right? Many of us -- I was contemplating this, this morning, how much people **fear** God because they're expecting to be punished for their sinfulness, because they believe sin is real and they're not practicing forgiveness. And this is why practicing forgiveness helps us realize there is no sin, there is no death, and we remember to simply choose Love because Love is the only real choice. The power of Love is the only real power.

"God established His relationship with you to make you happy, and nothing you do that does not share His purpose can be real."

It's so important for us to just **accept** this. It might be so challenging to understand, so fortunately we don't have to understand it. We just can be **willing** to accept it.

"...nothing you do that does not share His purpose can be real."

Essentially, **unless** we're standing in the Light of truth, sharing truth, sharing Wisdom, sharing Harmony, sharing Joy, sharing Freedom, sharing Love, sharing Abundance, sharing Prosperity in the spiritual quality sense, it's not going to be real. It's going to be part of the illusion, and it will have no power, no value, no meaning, **except** the value to teach us and help us learn through pain and suffering. **Enough** pain and suffering!

"The purpose God ascribed to anything is its only function. Because of His reason for creating His relationship with you, the function of relationships became forever 'to make happy.'"

"...the function of relationships became forever 'to make happy'. And nothing else."

That's it! God established his relationship with you to make you happy, and because of His reason for creating His relationship with you, the function of all relationships became forever *"to make happy. And nothing else."*

"To fulfill this function you relate to your creations as God to His. For nothing God created is apart from happiness, and nothing God created but would extend

***We remember to simply
choose Love***

***because Love is the only
real choice.***

***The power of Love
is the only real power.***

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happiness as its Creator did. Whatever does not fulfill this function cannot be real.”

Here’s where we’re getting to the two pictures and the relationship substitute. **Real** relationships are to make happy, and the only thing that makes us happy is the Love, being loving, choosing to be loving. This is our **only hope** of happiness. There is no other hope of happiness. That’s it! We have to be willing to stand in the moment, that instant, that wholly Holy Instant of pure awareness, connection, Oneness, Love. Therein lies the happiness forever, forever!

Fortunately, this is what we’ve been given. We can try to look at it differently, right? We can have special hate relationships, and we can have special Love relationships that aren’t actually about Love. We can have relationship substitutes. We can substitute for Love the intermittent fulfillment of someone’s craving. Instead of Love, we could settle for that and many of us have.

Paragraph 2 in this, *The Two Pictures*, it says,

“In this world it is impossible to create. Yet it is possible to make happy. I have said repeatedly --”

How often does He say, “I have said repeatedly”? Such a sweet way of saying, “I’m trying to get it through your head and your heart! He says,

“I have said repeatedly that the Holy Spirit would not deprive you of your special relationships, but would transform them.”

See? This is so helpful right here, because if you listen to the older episodes on special relationship where I go in depth, you might find that really helpful. I find the special relationship stuff **really** helpful, especially helpful in counseling people about relationship, and people who are going to get married and things like that, or going to get divorced. [laughs] That, too! Great opportunities to talk about special relationship and holy relationship.

Holy Versus Special Relationship

Quick definitions here, in case these terms are new to you. I do point you towards the earlier relationship, holy relationship, special relationship episodes. For now, I define, according to *A Course in Miracles*, I articulate it this way -- special relationship is designed for the purpose to give us the

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illusion of shelter from the storm. Holy relationship has a purpose that's real and that purpose is to remember our divinity and the divinity of all life.

So, no matter where you **perceive** your relationship to be in the spectrum of special to holy -- it could be a special hate relationship, too. Right? And *A Course in Miracles* has that beautiful quote about "The holiest ground on Earth is when a special relationship, a special hate relationship, becomes a holy relationship." And if you've ever experienced that, it definitely is a holy ground.

Holy relationship aides and assists us in remembering our perfection, our Wholeness, our Unity and Oneness with God. And a special relationship is a codependent relationship, and its foundation, it's premise, is to keep us feeling "not enough" always in lack, always in limitation, always wanting, needing, craving. So, it's a **substitute** for that which **is** fulfilling, which is Love. Special relationship is a **substitute** for healing. It is, instead, very much a learning device of learning through pain.

If you think about a relationship that you have that's painful, can you see how possibly, in some shape or form - - not if it's a special hate relationship, but if it's a special friendship, love relationship, family relationship that's not holy, then in your mind, perhaps, you can see where you went into the relationship, or became immersed in the relationship, with the idea, the concept, that this relationship would produce some kind of shelter from the storm? Right?

***Holy relationship
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Oneness with God.***

If that is the foundation of our relationship, then definitely it is going to disappoint. First of all, one of the premises of that concept is that there is a storm from which we need to **protect** ourselves. But if you've been studying *A Course in Miracles* for a while, then you know where the storm is coming from. Right? This is the classic horror movie where the killer is in the house, calling from inside the house. [laughs] It's not outside, it's inside.

So, the storm from which we're trying to protect ourselves is inside our **own** awareness and it is -- I'm trying to think of some weather metaphors

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here -- the storm is brewing, it's brewed from the thoughts that we have of unworthiness. And the special relationship, the codependent relationship, is to help us manage and cope with our sense of unworthiness, our sense of lack and limitation, our sense of "not enough-ness". Right?

For instance, if we are feeling unworthy, unlovable, but we're in a relationship, no matter how much that person adores us, if we're **convinced** that we're not worth loving, their love will not be **felt**, it will not be enough. It will be seen as lacking or limited, simply because that is the perspective, "I am not worthy of Love, of adoration. I am not worthy, therefore I will not believe that anyone could actually, fully, and completely, unconditionally, Love me." It's not going to be in agreement with my belief system, so I won't be able to accept it. I will reject it, and I could reject it in many, many ways.

I remember when I was in my 20's, sometimes men would see me in a particular light that was their projection onto me, and I always had to get away from that, because I could not live up to their projections on me, and I don't want to be trapped by them, either. But that's a very common thing in relationship, that people -- and I noticed this when I first started counseling couples, was that I'd say to them -- even couples that had been together for years, years! -- I'd say, "So, what are the ground rules in your relationship?" They'd say, "Um -- what do you mean? Like, wh-wh-what?"

I'd say, "Ground rules. Do you have ground rules, like 'It's not okay to have sex with my sister,' or something like that?" [laughs] And they'd say, "Oh! Well, that's definitely not okay, but we've never talked about that." I'm like, "Yeah, it's good to have ground rules."

*The special
relationship
is to help us manage
and cope
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It's good to really talk about these things. It's good to just be clear, because this is one of the things newly married couples go through, or newly living together couples go through. It's surprising how much they never discussed but they thought they agreed to, and then they find out, once they're in the relationship living together, married, having children, these kinds of things, that were never, ever discussed. It's just this fantasy of the special relationship where "You're my shelter from the storm, so -- duh! Of

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course you're going to know what I want and what I need and be interested in supplying them!" Mm-hmm!

So, where's God in **that** picture?

No Duality in Relationships is Possible

These are the two kinds of relationships, special and holy, and the special relationship is really a substitute for **real** relationship. Now, think of it this way -- Spirit gives me funny, funny little pictures sometimes -- if you're wearing a pair of shoes that are hobbling you, in other words, making it very painful and difficult for you to walk, and maybe they're deforming your feet, can you wear those shoes at the same time that you wear a pair that might be orthopedic or healing, or helpful? Can you wear two pairs of shoes at the same time on the same feet? Can you ride two horses going in opposite directions at the same time? These things are not possible. Can you be a "yes" for Love and a "no" for Love at the same time? Can you be a "yes" for healing and "no" for illness at the same time?

The ego is so demented that it will convince us that we **can**. It will, if we allow it. If we're interested in that concept of incredible duality, we'll find a way there.

Well! That's my cue that it's time to take a break. I'm Jennifer Hadley, and you're listening to *A Course in Miracles* on Unity Online Radio, and I'll be right back!

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

The Substitute For God's Will

Welcome back! So glad to join with you! We're talking about "Relationship Substitute" which is another way to talk about special relationship and relationships that are not authentic and real.

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In this Paragraph 2 of the Section IV, which is *The Two Pictures* in Chapter 17, it says,

“In this world it is impossible to create. Yet it is possible to make happy. I have said repeatedly that the Holy Spirit would not deprive you of your special relationships, but would transform them. And all that is meant by that is that He will restore to them the function given them by God.”

The function of all relationships is to make happy. That’s what the holy relationship does, so here’s another plug Jesus is making. “For goodness sake, for God sake, for Love’s sake, give the relationship over to the Holy Spirit, your special relationship. You won’t be deprived of it, but it will be transformed into a relationship that can actually **satisfy**, which a special relationship can never do.

A special relationship can satisfy in the way that you go to the most wonderful buffet, or meal, or restaurant in the world and you have the most delicious meal of your life, but guess what? Sooner or later, you’re going to be hungry again. [laughs]

A special relationship is not even having the most beautiful meal of your life. It’s having more like a **picture** of the most beautiful year of your life, but you don’t actually get to experience it, taste it, or feel the nourishment of it, because all those things, they really come from that holy relationship.

The function of all relationships is to make happy.

So, He says,

“I have said repeatedly that the Holy Spirit would not deprive you of your special relationships, but would transform them. And all that is meant by that is that He will restore to them the function given them by God. The function you have given them is clearly not to make happy. But the holy relationship shares God’s purpose, rather than aiming to make a substitute for it. Every special relationship you have made is a substitute for God’s Will, and glorifies yours instead of His because of the illusion that they are different.”

Yes! When we pray, “Thy Will, not mine,” we are, in a sense, we could intentionally use that as a prayer of transformation of the special, unhelpful, un-healing, unloving relationship into a truly loving, holy relationship, just to say, “Thy Will, not mine, in my relationships.”

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Now, for some people that's terrifying. Right? I can remember thinking, "Ooh! If I turn this relationship over to God, God might break it in half, break it in two. God might send my boyfriend in that direction and me in this direction. Yikes! That terrifies me! I **need** my boyfriend! I **want** my boyfriend, and I don't trust God." Right? Very common feelings. That's how I used to think. That's how I used to feel.

Trusting God With Our Relationships

So, it is a tremendous act of faith to say, "I'm going to trust You. I'm going to trust You, God, that Holy Spirit, that the transformation of this relationship will be so fulfilling that I will wonder why I didn't do it sooner!"

Like they talk about hip replacement. [laughs] I was at the gym the other day, and somebody is going to have a hip replacement, and they were understandably nervous. Anyway, everyone that I know that has had them usually says, "I just wish I had done it sooner." That's for someone. Maybe it's you. [laughs]

It's natural when we're identified with the ego -- or, maybe it's not natural, but it's certainly in alignment with the ego -- to **fear** turning the relationship over to Spirit because we fear it will be transformed in a way that we do not want, and we do not like.

We do not trust the idea that the holy relationship, **however** it looks in form, will be so thrilling, so happy-making, so wonderful in experience in our heart, that we'll be forever, ever grateful that we let it go to the Holy Spirit for healing. Yes! Yes, indeed! That is the truth of it.

*We are afraid,
we don't trust God,
because we project
onto God
what we're like.*

We are afraid, we don't trust God, because -- why don't we trust God? Because we project onto God what **we're** like. Right? So, we will have vengeful, revengeful thoughts, jealous thoughts, shaming, blaming, attacking thoughts about people that we say we love and adore, and this, in its essence, is dishonest. *A Course in Miracles* would call it, according to the ten Characteristics of the Teachers of God, would call it dishonest, inconsistent with Love. Sure, we can see that.

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But it also, one of the boomerang effects that goes out from that and comes back and smacks us in the head, is when we **say** we love someone, but we harbor attack thoughts. Then we are **not** trustworthy according to our own beliefs and standards, and so we think, “Well, look at me! I can’t be trusted to be completely loving, wholly loving, fully loving. Nuh uh! Not me! So, I can’t trust God. I can’t trust God with things as important as my relationship! No!”

Now, I remember when I was doing that, as I talked about earlier in the episode, that “Masterful Living Through *A Course in Miracles*” Study Group, which there is a podcast for it -- I haven’t checked on it, ever, so I don’t know how it’s holding up in terms of quality and all that, but anyway a lot of the weekly recordings are there -- when I was doing that, I remember very specifically there was one or two participants who would come to the Study Group, occasionally, and they would talk about their relationships that they had given over to Spirit, their special relationships, and that their marriages and their relationships had been transformed.

And it’s surprising how, when the special relationship is transformed into a holy relationship, it may not look the same, and it **definitely** will not feel the same, because however it looks, it feels **perfect**, it feels beautiful. It does feel holy. It feels magnificent, and it’s healing!

Transforming & Healing Relationships

What the *Course* is very clear about in the section, the very next section, Chapter 17, Section V, it’s called *The Healed Relationship*. It says there that if you ask the Holy Spirit -- this is Paragraph 3, Section V, Chapter 17. Paragraph 3 -- if you ask the Holy Spirit to transform your special relationship into a holy relationship, it says here,

“This invitation is accepted immediately, and the Holy Spirit wastes no time in introducing the practical results of asking Him to enter. At once His goal replaces yours.”

The goal of the holy relationship replaces the goal of the special relationship.

“This is accomplished very rapidly, but it makes the relationship seem disturbed, disjunctive and even quite distressing. The reason is quite clear. For the relationship as it is is out of line with its own goal--”

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Right? Now that there's a new goal, it has to be reconfigured to meet the new goal. As it is, it's --

"...clearly unsuited to the purpose that has been accepted for it. In its unholy condition, your goal was all that seemed to give it meaning. Now it seems to make no sense."

This is the whole reason I'm reading this paragraph.

"Many relationships have been broken off at this point, and the pursuit of the old goal re-established in another relationship. For once the unholy relationship has accepted the goal of holiness, it can never again be what it was."

"The temptation of the ego becomes extremely intense with this shift in goals."

There's a strong, strong temptation to abandon the relationship and start a new one with the **old** goal. Don't do it! Don't be tempted! It is not worth it! Think of all the -- it's one thing when you're 23, and it's another thing when you're 83. Because lots of people start relationships in their 80's. My dad was in his late 70's when he started the relationship he's in now. He remarried a handful of years ago, after my mom passed, and yeah! It's very common for people who were happily married, as my parents were for almost 50 years, when one spouse dies to -- you can handle having another happy relationship. Some people can't, some people can. There's no right or wrong. But anyway, I digress!

"Every special relationship you have made is a substitute for God's Will, and glorifies yours instead of His because of the illusion that they are different."

Right? That there's a different will, God's Will, and our will. But we're One with God, as *A Course in Miracles* makes abundantly clear. There's no separate will. There's just the One Will. One Will, One God. One Love. One Life. One Mind.

So, since we can't go in two opposite directions at the same time, we can't wear two kinds of shoes on the same foot at the same time, let's choose the

"For once the unholy relationship has accepted the goal of holiness, it can never again be what it was."

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highest and best, the most loving. It does take courage. It takes courage, but this kind of courage is not bravado. This kind of courage is not from the ego. It's from the heart.

The Willingness to Choose Happiness

And you know what the foundation of this kind of courage is? It's a deep, deep yearning to return to the real, to return to being happy.

The purpose of relationships is to **make** happy. It's not to give shelter from the storm, because the storm is coming from the inside, and the storm will die out if we stop feeding it. Right? So, stop feeding the storm in your relationship and you'll see that the needing, the wanting, the craving will dissolve. And then, you know what emerges? The **having**. Right?

The ego thought system is **entirely**, 100% made up of a foundational belief that there is lack, that there is limitation because there's separation. If you don't believe in separation, you will not experience lack and limitation. It is not possible! So simple!

We can say, "Okay, I am willing to give up separation, lack and limitation thinking. I'm willing to have all holy relationships!" And that's what I did! I'll be honest with you, they all feel holy now.

They **all** feel holy. Some of them, they're -- eh, they're in that process, still, they're working their way through to the ends, in a way. But, oh! I'm just not tortured and bent out of shape about relationship anymore. I'm so grateful for that! Oh, my gosh! That took up so much bandwidth, so much energy that could be put into healing, to being truly helpful, to being happy and harmonious.

*I'm willing to
choose
Happiness
instead of
chasing
happiness.*

So, if we're in a relationship with somebody and we're not happy in that relationship, it's a special relationship that can be turned over to the holy relationship. Give up **all** your attachments, and ideas, and beliefs about what you need to make you happy. This is also one of my favorite things that Jesus says, "Stop thinking you know what will make you happy. You do not know!"

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For me, that was a wonderful prayer to come to and to be able to say, “Okay, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Mother-Father God, Infinite I AM that I AM, please take from me the illusion and delusion that I know how to make myself happy. I’m now willing to actually **be happy** instead of **chasing** happiness! I’m willing to **choose** happiness instead of chasing happiness.” That’s a good one! “I’m willing to choose happiness instead of chasing happiness inside.” The Holy Spirit can redo everything that’s inside of us, our belief systems, **if** we let It. “I must have chosen wrongly, because I am not at Peace. The Holy Spirit will undo all the consequences of my wrong decision, **if I let Him**, and I **choose** to let Him!”

Just a little side note, I do sometimes stumble over the Holy Spirit being a “He” or “Him”. It doesn’t feel like it to me, but I’m just going to share that. Sometimes, FYI, I substitute “God” for “Father” or “God” for “Him”. *A Course in Miracles* is Christian centric in its language for a purpose, and I understand that, I accept that. I don’t need to be bothered by it. I’m over that.

Healing Opportunities: Retreats & Classes

Relationship healing, so much is possible for us, and I’m so glad to see it demonstrating all around me. This is one of the most **powerful** results that people have from being in my [Finding Freedom](#), my [Masterful Living](#) class.

If you would like a jumpstart, I encourage you to come to the “[Spring Clearing](#)” retreat. People have had major relationship healings coming by themselves, or with their loved ones, to retreats that I’m doing.

This is specifically a healing retreat for healing at the level of the mind, opening our hearts, opening our minds, healing at all levels. I’m doing this with my sweet sisters Lisa Natoli and Corinne Zupko, and our brother Jon Mundy, and we’re looking forward to it next month in March. I am so excited to do this retreat with them. I’ve been wanting to do something like this for a while, and they’re excited, too, so we’re just going to have a wonderful healing, healing time. Great way to start the Spring! We’ll be jumping off the Spring Equinox and the full moon at a beautiful resort.

Some people are bringing spouses and friends who can enjoy the spa, and the quiet time, and the downtime and have all their meals with us. Possibly we’d watch a movie or two, we’ll see. I don’t have a feeling that we’ll have any time for that, but you never know.

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Come! Bring your loved ones. You can come to the retreat, and they can enjoy everything else and have meals with us. People do that all the time, and it's a wonderful thing. It's a **great** resort with a beautiful spa. It will be just at the beginning of Spring. We don't know, it could snow, it could be lovely. We don't know! But they do have an indoor pool and a spa, and lots of great things in the area, too -- hiking and things like that. All the details are at JenniferHadley.com for that.

I will also mention, on top of that, that Jon Mundy and I, right before -- immediately before, back-to-back, so people can come from far distances or just immerse themselves -- there's the "[How to Lead and Create a Workshop](#)" which includes certification for my [Forgive & Be Free](#) workshop. I'd love to support as many people as possible sharing and teaching true forgiveness, and so I'm really **very** committed to supporting people in teaching my forgiveness workshop.

This is a training, a week long training with me and Jon. There are **no** prerequisites to either of these events. **All** are welcome. Please come! We have payment plans, and an Early Bird special right now.

But please register as soon as possible. It just helps us with all the logistics if we can get you all figured out, and I appreciate that.

The Poison of Relationship Attachments

Back to the special relationship versus the holy relationship. You know, one of the things that happens when we're doing work as a group, sometimes it's more possible to catch a glimpse of the holy relationship, and to make that leap of faith to where we **can** trust God to transform the relationship into a holy one that we would enjoy. Right?

Here's the thing, is sometimes when people are very attached to the relationship, and it could be any kind of a relationship, but very often if it's some kind of a romance-based relationship, like a marriage or an engagement, something like that, there's such a strong sense of the identification that "I **need** this person to be happy." Right? That our identity is, "I'm not good enough by myself, but if this person loves me and validates me, **then** I can live with myself. But without this person, I feel worthless. I do not feel that my life is worth living."

A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show with Jennifer Hadley

That could come from your relationship with your child, your dog, your job, your spouse, even your friend. It could be even in relationship to your parents, so there's all kinds of possibilities and permutations there.

But the fact of the matter is that clinging to that relationship because you're terrified of discovering that what you believe is true, or just revealing to the world that what you believe is true -- that you are unlovable, and this person who is your shelter from the storm -- holding onto that, and keeping that going, is just going to bring more pain. It's really relegating our life to playing very small, painful and, of course, then that's going to have all kinds of ramifications, and it will ripple out and really poison every part of our lives.

Many special relationships are filled with lots of arguments, lots of disappointments. The very nature of codependent relationships, which is what special relationships are, is that it's unsatisfying, that it is not possible to feel satisfied or loved inside the relationship, that it's all a **substitute** for a real relationship. It's all a substitute for Real Love.

Enough of that! Yes! There it is.

I also would like to mention that there's the [*A Course in Miracles app*](#), which is available for Android, as well as for Apple devices, iPhones, iPads, these kinds of things. It's totally free at the app store, so check that out!

Closing Prayer

Let's take a breath of Love and gratitude.

So grateful and thankful to say, "Yes!" to our healing! Grateful and thankful to say "Yes!" to our holiness.

In gratitude, we let it be. We share the benefits with all. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Have a great rest of your week! Mwah!