

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



LESSON 206 ~ Review VI [186] Salvation of the world depends on me.

Sarah's Commentary:

There is a startling question in the Clarification of Terms, where God's Voice asks, "**Are you ready yet to help me save the world?**" (C.2.9.1) What will my decision be? Am I ready to take my place among the saviors of the world? What does that mean anyway? What is required of me? Jesus says that to save the world is to heal our own minds. It is what time is for. Through the process of forgiveness, we come to know God's peace is in us and is ours. Forgiveness is the means for undoing the false belief that there is a world outside of the mind. Thus, to save the world is to save ourselves.

We are entrusted with His gifts. "**Love created me like Itself.**" (W.67) Every attribute of God, I have. We are the love, and we have the love. It is why we can say, "**I am the light of the world.**" (W.61) No matter what concepts we hold and what we believe about ourselves, how we feel about our shortcomings, how unworthy, lacking and deprived we feel, the truth is within us, and we have the power to choose to connect with it. But first, we need to see the false beliefs we hold about ourselves, what we value, fear, and try to control, and be willing to release it all to the Holy Spirit. By watching out thoughts without judging ourselves, remembering that no matter how ugly things seem to appear, in our thoughts and behavior, we are nevertheless completely innocent. We are not guilty simply having made a mistake that can be corrected. We recognize that the mythical self in the dream is not who we are. The ego is not what we are. Its thoughts do not belong to me. I can then be the observer of the dream that I have dreamt and know it is not what I am. This is how we experience the light of our being and make space for truth through willingness to bring all that is false to the truth. We lay the false on the inner altar rather than trying to fix ourselves. We then take whatever action we are guided to take as we take time to listen and follow.

There is no world apart from our thoughts. This is a radical concept, I know, but one that becomes more and more apparent as we do the healing. The world is in the mind, as nothing is outside of the mind. It is simply a reflection of what we are thinking and believing; but for now, we need to continue to work with the symbols of the world and whatever appears in the mind that we believe is caused by people and events outside of ourselves. This is the grist for forgiveness and healing. We can choose to be happy with whatever shows up as it is all for our healing. As we release the blocks to love, affirm our blessings, express gratitude, we increasingly accept the peace and joy that is always available as it is given in our creation. We have tried to replace His truth with our own. We think we are the authors of our own lives, but there is only one Author. To think that we made ourselves is to believe that there is God, and something else. For us to exist, we had to take our seeming existence from God. What this looks like is a belief in duality, instead of a recognition of Oneness. This has resulted in a belief in separation, differences, and competition.

As a result of the belief that we stole our identity from God, we now experience guilt and fear because the ego has convinced us we did real damage to Creation and the Creator. We have bought into this myth, but it is not the truth. We believe we have wrecked our home, damaged our pristine nature and are now in fear of punishment. We are like the Prodigal Son, who believes he stole his father's treasure and can never face his father again so instead he makes his home with the pigs. Jesus says we have simply forgotten the truth that is still in the mind and indeed that we never left God, except in dreams. The Prodigal Son felt he would never be forgiven but when he came back home his father welcomed him with open arms and celebrated his return. Our Father also yearns for our return to the home we never left except in dreams and is ready to welcome us. Our nagging vague sense that we have done something terribly wrong and lost our innocence keeps us searching in the world for what we think we lost. The ego offers us all kinds of substitutes to keep us in its clutches until we realize none of it brings us the happiness and peace for which we yearn.

All that is required to awaken to the truth of our reality is readiness, willingness honesty and courage. Jesus says, **"It is always the result of your small willingness combined with the unlimited power of God's Will"** (T.18.IV.4.2) (ACIM OE T.18.V.35) that brings us to the holy instant. It is not about trying to clean up our own act. He says, **"You have been wrong in thinking that it is needful to prepare yourself for Him. It is impossible to make arrogant preparations for holiness, and not believe that it is up to you to establish the conditions for peace."** (T.18.IV.4.3-4) (ACIM OE T.18.V.35) The conditions for peace are established by God, not by us. Our part is simply to be willing to be taught. No one will ever coerce us. Love waits patiently for our readiness.

We are told we still need structure for now. We are using the Lessons provided in the Workbook and doing the practice to achieve the goal of formlessness—our eternal Self. The specifics of our lives provide the classroom in which we have a special function based on our strengths and our abilities together with a universal function of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit deems us worthy of this function. It is only our arrogance that judges otherwise. We do have an important role to play in salvation, as does everyone. We must take our part and stop playing small in the name of humility, victimhood, and fear. It is arrogant to insist we are helpless victims instead of accepting what God says we are as His Son. The only way out of the imprisonment of our own plans is to accept His plan. It means we must spend our time in quiet listening in our morning and evening practice, and let the Holy Spirit guide our day.

"Do as God's Voice directs. And if It asks a thing of you which seems impossible, remember Who it is that asks, and who would make denial. Then consider this; which is more likely to be right? The Voice that speaks for the Creator of all things, Who knows all things exactly as they are, or a distorted image of yourself, confused, bewildered, inconsistent and unsure of everything?" (W.186.12.1-4)

We focus today on refuting the voice of the ego by watching our thoughts and letting them go by without attachment. We enter deeply into our minds to that quiet place within where the Holy Spirit resides. Today, we choose to listen to His truth and not our own ideas, which lead nowhere. We set our goal for peace. We take the time to go within to listen to guidance. The way to hear is to release the blocks to truth, which are the thoughts we hold in our minds. We continue to devote this day and every day to remembering the people and situations in our lives that offer us all the opportunities we need, throughout the day, to practice our function of forgiveness.

*"What if you slept, and what if in your sleep you dreamed,
And what if in your dream you went to heaven and there
plucked a strange and beautiful flower,
and what if when you awoke you had the flower in your hand?
Ah, what then?"*

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Love and blessings, Sarah
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