



LESSON 38

There is nothing my holiness cannot do.

Sarah's Commentary:

The purpose of today's exercises is to begin to instill in us a sense that we have dominion over all things because of what we are as a Son of God, at One with the Mind of the Creator. Does this kind of power seem arrogant to you? Our belief in our littleness is, in fact, what arrogance really is. In Chapter 9, "**Grandeur Versus Grandiosity**", Jesus says, "**To accept yourself as God created you cannot be arrogance, because it is the denial of arrogance. To accept your littleness is arrogant, because it means that you believe your evaluation of yourself is truer than God's.**" (T.9.VIII.10.8) (ACIM OE T.9.VII.57) When we accept our littleness, we attest that we are right about who we are and that we know better than God. We defend our littleness and believe our power is limited. Why would we do that? We do it because we are actually afraid of the power of our own minds. If we maintain our smallness, we don't have to take responsibility for our lives, our circumstances, or our situation; nor do we have to take responsibility for our biggest fear, which is that we have left God by our own volition and can never return to face Him. It was our choice to leave, and now it must be our decision to undo what we believe we have done. As we read in Chapter 5, "**I must have decided wrongly, because I am not at peace. I made the decision myself, but I can also decide otherwise.**" (T.5.VII.6.7-8) (ACIM OE T.5.IX.96) We continue to decide wrongly every time we choose the ego. With this choice, we cannot know peace; but when we choose to forgive, the Holy Spirit will lead us back to where we never left.

Let's look at the ego more fully. What are some of the characteristics of the ego? The ego compares, wants, strives, demands, feels guilty, wants to be special, has needs, is acquisitive, feels inadequate, unworthy, narcissistic, predatory, dualistic, hateful, angry, sensory, proud, arrogant, resentful, feels lack, feels powerless, feels special, and much more. It is very noisy. When we sit quietly in meditation, it disturbs us with its chatter. When we identify with the ego, we feel a deep sense that there is something lacking in us. Yet the only thing that is ever lacking is awareness of the holiness that envelops us. While we identify with the ego, it is not what we are. The "you" Jesus is addressing is the awareness that is always there. It is the observer, above the battleground. It is the dreamer of this dream and not the character in the dream we think we are.

When we identify with the ego, we feel the lack in us deeply, so we try to fill it up with things of the world. The ego's most boasted gift to fill this seeming void is the special relationship. In our special relationships, we try to steal the love we think we lack, and in doing so, we become predatory and competitive. I see you as having something I want or having power over me. I can only see in this way when I identify with the ego. A first step in distancing myself from the problems I perceive is to become the observer. To do so is to look at it the ego calmly and with great honesty. The one doing the looking is the "you" who is not the ego.

Jesus explains to us how the ego operates so we will not be caught up in its game. He constantly reminds us of who we are. The more we learn to notice how we react to people and events in our lives and watch our minds without judgment, the more healing happens. When we resist the ego, or we try to fight it, we make it real rather than just withdrawing belief from it or refusing to listen to its lies. If we can look at it calmly, without judgment, we will start to see how it operates in our lives. To forgive is to accept that what we see in ourselves is not the truth. The only truth is, we have never left God, and we are still His One Son.

It is not helpful to take a position on the ego like, "I love it," or "I hate it." What that does is make it real when all that the ego is, is a meaningless thought with no substance. Our only interest should be to transcend it by forgiving ourselves for our mistaken perceptions. We are essentially wrong about everything we perceive. The reason is that our assessment of everything in our lives is given us by the ego. For example, it will tell us we should be jealous, envious, upset, disturbed, or feel superior about a situation we experience, but we don't have to listen. The ego always speaks first, meaning it tells us how we should see a situation. Yet when we turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him how to perceive the situation from a right-minded perspective, His interpretation will always negate the ego. The ego made the body and its senses to prove that what we perceive is true. Now we are being called to watch our thoughts and recognize that the ego is invested in having us see others as the cause of our problems, rather than to see our minds as the cause. As we give these thoughts to the Holy Spirit for His interpretation, we are given a new perspective. He reminds us that nothing outside of us can disturb our peace unless we give it the power to do so.

In Chapter 6, Section IV, "**The Only Answer,**" we are told, "**The ego always speaks first.**" (T.6.IV.1.2) (ACIM OE T.6.V.45) It is capricious and does not mean its maker well. It believes, correctly, that its maker may withdraw support from it at any moment. As Jesus says, we make illusion as a result of our guilt, but we do not see ourselves as the maker nor do we see the mind as the cause. We see the cause as outside and separate from our own minds, but we don't have to listen to the ego's interpretation of events. While the first interpretation is always the one the ego gives us, it will always be wrong. When we realize this, we can turn to the Truth within and choose to have our misperceptions healed. Jesus reminds us that we are holy and so is everything that God created. There are no separate parts. We are all the same.

A difficult situation showed up for me as I was writing this commentary. My mother has a delivery service for her home care products. I regularly put in the request for what she needs, but it turned out they were not delivered as expected. When I called the company, I was told that since it was a holiday weekend, they would not be delivering. This meant I would have to go out to pick them up and deliver them myself. I had many things to attend to since I was leaving for a week so I felt the stress of this additional responsibility. As I was talking on the phone to the agent, I was feeling angry and upset that they were not taking responsibility for the error. There was a strong temptation to act on these feelings. However, this Lesson came to mind as I was actually in the middle of writing this commentary at the time. It was very helpful to be reminded that no situation need be seen as a problem. In the holy instant, there are no problems. I can choose to see this as neutral and not make the person on the phone guilty, unless I want to reinforce the separation. It is always a choice between the ego and the holiness of who we are. Which do I want for myself today? Do I want attack and judgment or peace?

"Your holiness reverses all the laws of the world. It is beyond every restriction of time, space, distance and limits of any kind. Your holiness is totally unlimited in its power because it establishes you as a Son of God, at one with the Mind of his Creator." (W.38.1.1-3) Thus, **"In today's exercises, we will apply the power of your**

holiness to all problems, difficulties or suffering in any form . . ." (W.38.3.4) It is really the same as a miracle. There are no restrictions. The reason there is nothing our holiness cannot do is because it has no limitations. It emanates from our right minds when we connect with the truth of who we are. When we do, belief in sin, guilt, and judgment are gone, and we experience ourselves and everyone else as innocent. It is a state of miracle-mindedness. Our holiness can be anywhere at any time with no restrictions because it is beyond time and space. We won't believe it until we experience it because we have learned limitation. What we believe and hold true for ourselves, we will defend, and what we fear, we will resist. This is why we need to look at all of our interfering thoughts that block the truth. The conditioned mind has been programmed so that our responses become automatic, based on our conditioning, but when we pay attention to them, we can make another choice.

"There is nothing in the world that has the power to make you ill or sad, or weak or frail. But it is you who have the power to dominate all things you see by merely recognizing what you are." (W.190.5.5-6)

By choosing to release our wrong-minded perceptions, we recognize that in our holiness all things are blessed along with us. David Hawkins has said it is rare to hear the truth, but it is rarer to hear it and pursue it and thus undo the ego. We are fortunate the Course has found us so we can hear the truth and indeed do the work of healing the mind. Jesus says, **"Yet whether or not you recognize it now, you have agreed to cooperate in the effort to become both harmless and helpful, attributes that must go together."** (T.4.II.5.5) (ACIM OE T.4.III.29) He recognizes that our attitudes are still conflicted because all attitudes are ego-based, but he assures us, this will not last. **"Be patient a while and remember that the outcome is as certain as God."** (T.4.II.5.8) (ACIM OE T.4.III.29) Why can he say this? He can say this because our fears and doubts will not last. Healing is certain. We have powerful Help and are not alone in this.

When we choose to realize our holiness and accept the Atonement (healing), the power of God is made manifest. By accepting our holiness, the power of God is made available and known to us. There is nothing the power of God cannot do. Through my acceptance and joining with the holiness and power of God's Love, there can be no opposite. There can be no illusion of pain, sorrow, or problems because fear and love cannot coexist. My holiness envelops everything because my holiness is everything. It is an experience out of time and space, which sees the characters in the dream from above the battleground. This is an experience of the holy instant. It is an experience beyond the body. Here, all problems are solved because the only problem is separation. There is no order of difficulty in miracles because all illusions are one. The size, shape, or description of the problem is irrelevant. Since the guilt in the mind is the source of all pain, sorrow, and problems of any kind, when the guilt is lifted from the mind, the cause of pain must also dissipate and be seen as unreal. The mind is cause and the world is effect. **"This is a course in cause and not effect."** (T.21.VII.7.8) (ACIM OE T.21.VIII.77)

Recently, I was on staff at a workshop, and I started to feel sick. I resisted the sickness for the whole day, continuing to support the process. Near the end of the day, the nausea took over and I succumbed to it. That evening I held in my mind the truth that there is no sickness in God and if I am in God how can I be sick? God's Kingdom is devoid of sickness. The only truth is the love that I am, and sickness cannot be a part of His Kingdom. I denied the power of sickness to stop me from my function in being of support to others in the workshop. I woke up the next morning perfectly well. Those who were at the workshop indicated to me the next morning that they too held the truth about me and knew I would be fine, and I was. There was no residue of sickness at all.

Today, we are asked to hold the truth about ourselves and be actively involved in the decision for peace. It is the decision to recognize the holiness that resides in the right mind, and in that recognition, we are joined with the Holy Spirit where holiness is accessed outside of time and space. It is to accept the truth of who we are as created by God. Specialness and individuality disappear when we join with the Holy Spirit. Holiness can then shine through us by our very presence and bring blessings to the world. Jesus invites us to choose healing in every circumstance so we can bring holiness to every situation we encounter. That is why we are here. Our experiences in the world become the theater for our healing. Thus these experiences are our guru teaching us what we need to learn. We come to see that we are the ones who made up this dream and are not simply the dream figures who are puppets in this theater. We are immense, powerful beings of light and love because that is how we were created.

In today's exercises, we apply the power of our holiness by accepting it as true through the Holy Spirit, then by applying it to all problems, difficulties, or suffering in any form that cross our minds, in ourselves, or anyone else. It is in our power because we are a Son of God, and we have His power because we are One with His Mind and all creation. Open your mind to the potential and possibility that there is nothing your holiness cannot do so that this thought can become a part of you. Open your mind sufficiently today to apply it sincerely to a situation, event, or person troubling you. **"In today's exercises, we will apply the power of your holiness to all problems, difficulties or suffering in any form that you happen to think of, in yourself or in someone else."** (W.38.3.4) Of course, this is because **"there are no distinctions."** (W.38.3.5) The Lesson tells us, it makes no difference if it is about us or someone else, there is no difference since we are really all One.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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