

A COURSE IN MIRACLES

STUDY GROUP

WITH RAJ

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THIS IS A ROUGH TRANSCRIPT.
THIS COPY IS NOT IN ITS FINAL FORM
AND WILL BE UPDATED

Good evening. And welcome to everyone who is joining us on the internet.

I'm going to talk about a simple subject tonight. Certainly one we've talked about before. It's the subject of Love. Not Pollyanna love, not airy-fairy impractical love, but grounded dynamic *healing* Love.

I spent quite a bit of time a few weeks ago sharing the idea, *Love one another*. This idea is still of great importance. And to understand its meaning is becoming imperative. Imperative because of disaster? No, but imperative because there is simply no justification for not experiencing the fulfillment of the practice of Love any longer. And there is a need for its blessing.

It used to be that there would be hot spots of distress around your globe, but they would be a very small percentage of the general movement of life on your globe. But today distress, violence, greed, anger, stress itself is present in about every quarter of the planet. And the tendency is to look at it and say, "Oh, these are the signs of the end times." And in a rather perverse way, that recognition is enjoyed in the sense that it means that the illusion isn't going to last much longer . . . as though it's a sign that no matter how rough it gets, no one will have to endure the illusion much longer: It will suddenly, magically be over for everyone because these are the "end times" that have been predicted and described.

Be careful, it's not going to be magically over. It isn't a movement pre-designed that was set into motion that would occur whether anyone liked it or not . . . and everyone would simply find themselves governed by this movement which would bring about the end of illusion.

It's not true. So don't be too happy.

Now, let's also be practical. The signs of the end times are truly no different from the signs of the orphan mentality – the orphan mindset, the ego frame of reference. The signs of the end times are simply the selfishness, the self-righteousness, the attempt to make something valid out of oneself when one has divorced himself or herself from his or her Source, the Father. It's back-biting, it's controlling, it's manipulating at the expense of others, climbing on others' shoulders to get to the top so that one can be the greatest or the most significant, even when it comes to spiritual matters, and let us say, promoting Awakening.

Many studying the *Course*, and others studying other religious books, are grateful that in these end times they have the most advanced means for providing correction to one's greedy, manipulative self-serving selfish brothers and sisters.

It is a mean-spirited attitude. Why? Well first of all, it isn't your brothers that need correction. It's their illusions. It's that simple. Remember that. It isn't your brothers who need correction. *It is their illusions, their misperceptions.*

So don't take pleasure in correcting your brothers. Don't take pleasure in having the means to correct your brothers, to call them on the carpet, to make it perfectly clear to them where they are out of sync. Now that is attack. It isn't Love.

Now, I want to remind you that Love is not a means of control. Love is what occurs *when control is abandoned*, when self-righteous self-assertion is abandoned and one says, "Father, what is the truth here about my brother? What is the truth here that needs to be known?" One shifts into a yielding place where Love, by virtue of its very

nature, transforms. Love is the universal solvent, as it were, which dissolves everything unlike itself, without dynamics to it, without force, without stress, through inspiration. Inspiration softens the heart. Inspiration softens and illuminates the soul. That's the nature of Love. And the call is to *Love one another*.

As you look around and the world situation seems to call for the exercise of forceful control to bring things back into order, you must catch yourself, because in the act of taking control, you will become thoughtless. You will act off the top of your head, you will act out of habit, you will act out of your conditioning without ever having taken the step – the two-step – of stepping beyond your conditionings, reaching beyond your best judgments and saying, “Father, what is the truth here? Father, when I look at my brother or my sister in the way they are acting, I can't see the Holy Spirit there. What is the truth?” And the Father says, “The truth is, that their behavior doesn't govern what you see, *your Vision does.*” Wow . . .

Love turns the attention in a direction away from the tendency to belittle and scold and correct a brother for his ignorance. And the correction ends up being punishment of some sort. You see? But the Father says their behavior doesn't govern what you see, *your Vision does.*

Well, that changes everything. That puts you in a position of releasing your brother as the focus of your attention so that you might turn it towards your Vision. You know, when you ask to know what the truth is here, when you ask to know what the answer is, and I've said this before, it will never be a description of the problem. It will never be a description of the misperception.

Someone is behaving in a manner that could be expressed as two times two equals five. There's a call for correction. Is a call for correction to say, “Stop doing that! What an idiotic thing to do! Now start over again and do it right!” No, the one having made the mistake does not need to be corrected. The answer, which is four, needs to be provided together with the explanation as to how that conclusion is arrived at from two times two. You see? The answer that Love provides when one engages in the two-step is the one that

illuminates and puts at rest everything because clarity is experienced and recognizable.

Oh-h . . . that means more involvement than you thought, because you thought you were listening and hearing how to identify where the mistake was being made and then finding a way to get the person to change, when listening for the answer means listening for that which makes clear the truth so that there isn't any resistance to it.

“Oh dear, well that means that I'm obviously going to have to listen more significantly, more deeply than I have in the past. Because if I need to listen for the answer that is clearly true, that's easily recognizable, Oh, that might be a problem. That might be more than I am capable of. When I look at my brother or my sister, it certainly looks to me like there's going to be a lot of resistance and they're not going to easily recognize the truth.”

Well, there you are. You're letting their behavior and your perceptions of it govern how you feel, instead of your vision. And that's not your Vision, that's not your clarity.

Now, you know what? The answers are simple. One of the answers is, “Love one another” instead of judging and enjoying correcting another . . . *Love one another*.

The problems aren't really complicated. The complications arise when great defense seems to be needed. And so the defense becomes complicated and confusing because that provides an armor that becomes difficult to penetrate. But Love, well, when you're willing to look at your brother or sister and want to know what the truth is, with an acknowledgement that they are worthy of having the truth no matter what behavior they're presenting, well, you put yourself in a different context. You put yourself in the context of Reality. You put your attention in the context of the Father, the Father's Perception – the Truth.

And you know what? You're as worthy of the miracle of the answer as your brother or sister is. You deserve to experience the simple answer that changes everything. But you're going to have to remember this one simple thing: When you ask for the answer, you must understand

that the answer will have to be *recognizable* because of its utter simplicity, so that it will not be able to be *deniable* and your brother can with relief say, “*Thank you, I am full of gratitude.*” You see?

That’s how the end of illusion happens. *That* is what will mark the end-of-the-end-times. *Nothing automatic* is going to happen to you or anyone else, where suddenly everyone is Awake without their having wanted to know more than they currently knew and reached beyond their current best judgments and even their current best spiritual understanding.

It says in the Course:

You will never give this holy instant . . .

. . . because of course, every moment is the holy instant utilized or not . . .

You will never give this holy instant to the Holy Spirit on behalf of your relief while you are unwilling to give it to your brothers on behalf of THEIRS. For the instant of holiness is shared and cannot be yours alone. Remember then . . .

. . . it’s so simple.

Remember then when you are tempted to attack a brother, that HIS instant of release is YOURS.

And likewise yours is his. But you can’t get it first and then give it to your brother. You have to extend it to your brother *first* and then you get to keep it. It’s simple.

The politicians, the governments, oh-h, the solutions of austerity, the weather conditions . . . all of these things seem to justify withholding love. All of these things seem to justify *waiting* before you honor *any of these things* enough to be present with them wanting to know the answer. The answer being, that which illuminates *fully* the truth so that there is no misunderstanding and there is no temptation to hold onto ignorance. The answer is what is obvious.

Again, all of this is going to require *involvement*, your involvement.

You know, in the “Pogo comic strip” in the late Sixties, a statement appeared that continues to be remembered to this day: “*We have met the enemy, and he is us!*” Well today we could say, “I have met the enemy and he is me.” Why? “Because I’m insisting upon looking at my brother’s behavior and basing my conclusions about him on his behavior and I’m totally ignoring the investigation of my Vision of genuinely and honestly looking at my capacity to knowing the truth and wish to know it because my brother is the holy Son of God, my sister is the holy Daughter of God and deserves that kind of attention from me.” You see?

And then you stick with listening, even if the answer doesn’t seem to come easily. You stick with it until your willingness to hear the answer is complete . . . until you have no other aces up your sleeve that you can bring into play before you yield completely . . . gentle down . . . soften up completely. You see?

So, hey, hopefully the end times are here. But don’t jump to conclusions based upon appearances or behaviors. Recognize that what you are experiencing is simply providing you with the opportunity to want to know the truth, to want to know the actual answer: Four as the answer to two times two instead of five, together with an understanding as to how that happens, how that correct answer is arrived at, because it is simple and it is understandable.

You know, you can go into a poverty stricken area of a large city and you can find *all* of the elements that could be identified as *end-of-times elements*, but because they’re located in a rather confined space one would not say these are “end times.”

Ego dynamics, whether global or individual or in a community, are all the same. And they’re all constituted of ignorances which have *answers*. And all of the elements identified with the end times will *cease* as soon as each one of us decides to practice the two-step, whether we can see our brothers’ or sisters’ divinity or not, so that we might be able to bless them with the answer which brings equilibrium to them *and* to you.

So don't wait too long for the end times. Don't wait for the Rapture that isn't going to come until you've played your part.

Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Today we can say, "We have met the Savior and he is us. I have met the Savior and he is me." But not unless you care enough to love your brothers, to love one another, exonerating them from whatever they believe they've done and whatever you believe they've done, so that in innocence you can listen for the answer that is the specific release, but has the meaning "*This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*"²

Love one another.

A Course In Miracles (reference pages)

¹Chapter 15 THE PURPOSE OF TIME – Section: THE USES OF TIME.
Sparkly Book – p.350, 2nd Full Par. / JCIM – p.147, 4th Par. / CIMS – p.294, Par.13
Chapter 15 THE HOLY INSTANT – Section: THE TWO USES OF TIME
First Edition – p. 282 / Second Edition – p.303, Par.12
²Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 17:5

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