



LESSON 129 Beyond this world there is a world I want.

Sarah's Commentary:

This Lesson presents us with a choice between the world we see and a better alternative. Jesus describes the world we see as merciless, unstable, cruel, unconcerned with us, with no lasting love, and with no certainty. It is a place where all things end, a place which is ". . . **quick to avenge and pitiless with hate.**" (W.129.2.3) How readily do you agree with this statement? Certainly, we can agree that all things end. Perhaps what is most cruel is that the world is a transitory place, but Jesus reminds us, there is another choice to be made. He leaves us with the assurance that there is something else available beyond this hopeless world. He says that we need more than just the idea that the world is worthless. We need hope for a better alternative. Otherwise, it leaves us depressed, with no hope for something better.

The alternative is the real world. "**Is it a loss to find a world instead where losing is impossible; where love endures forever, hate cannot exist and vengeance has no meaning.**" (W.129.3.1) This is the real world, as described in the Course. It is not a place but a state of mind revealed to us through forgiveness. When we no longer give attention to the voice of the ego and hear only the Holy Spirit, the love we are is reflected back to us and seen everywhere. Love is experienced when the thought system of sin, guilt, and fear, that made this world, is healed. Now, we experience a world of joy and peace. "**Yet even they [the gifts of the real world] will be exchanged at last for what we cannot speak of, [Heaven] for you go from there to where words fail entirely, into a silence where the language is unspoken and yet surely understood.**" (W.129.3.3) This is a place of direct knowledge and is beyond the real world. The Lesson covers three worlds: the ego's world of loss, hate, vengeance, suffering and death; the real world, which reflects Heaven's love and is the bridge to Heaven; and Heaven itself, where God takes the last step and lifts us up.

This world we made can never make us happy. Whatever happiness we think we can find in this world is only transitory. Oh yes, we might argue that there are lovely things in this world, things to enjoy, beautiful sunsets, mountains, lakes, and flowers, but they are still all subject to time. This Lesson helps us to recognize that the things of this world fall so very short of what we can experience in the real world. If we choose to see this world as wonderful, at some level there is a denial of the guilt in the mind because the nature of the world we see is not lovely. It is a world of beauty but also of murder, torture, war, famine, disease, and death. Yet when the guilt in the mind is healed, joy and beauty are indeed reflected everywhere. This happens not in the world but only in the mind. It becomes an outside reflection of our inner, healed condition, where there is no more guilt. Please don't think this all has to come at some time in the future, which was a mistake I made for a long time. The decision for Heaven is made in each moment. There is no linear time, so our salvation is now with each decision we make. Heaven is here now.

The real world is a much more valuable option than the most wonderful things in the world that we currently experience. The world we made is not a world where ". . . **love endures forever, hate cannot exist and vengeance has no meaning.**" (W.129.3.1) We see loss, vengeance, and death every day. That is the nature of the world of guilt and fear, but it is not the truth. When we say that we want joy and peace but want the things of this world as well, we are not being entirely honest with ourselves. We need to see how much we don't want real joy and peace but instead substitute things of this world in the place of what we say we want.

We still hold onto some hope that we might find something of value in the world. We think there is something here still worth striving for. For us, to give up the hope of finding value in the world may feel like loss. Jesus anticipates this when he says, "**What loss can be for you in choosing not to value nothingness?**" (W.129.6.2) In truth, there is nothing here we really want. Our real heart's desire lies beyond the things of this world. All we need do is to realize this fully. As we read yesterday, Jesus is not saying we must refuse pleasure and resist temptation when something appeals to us. Instead, he reminds us that happiness can never be found in the things of this world. He asks us again to be very honest about this and realize, "**This world holds nothing that you really want, but what you choose instead you want indeed!**" (W.129.6.3) He urges us not to delay but to choose what we say is important to us. When we seek what we still think we want in the world, we delay the peace and joy available to us. Jesus urges us not to delay on behalf of our own happiness. He reminds us that all we are sacrificing when we give up the pleasures of this world is pain. "**Is it a sacrifice to give up pain? Does an adult resent the giving up of children's toys?**" (Manual for Teachers.13.4.2-3)

We are here to find and experience the eternal. We are slowly learning to let go of our investment in the changeable, and instead, we are learning to value that which is changeless. When we live by guidance, listening, and following and being in the flow we get a sense of the real world that Jesus speaks about.

"Here is the world that comes to take its place, as you unbind your mind from little things the world sets forth to keep you prisoner." (W.129.5.3) Of course, we don't always see things in the world as little things. These are often what we think of as big and important things we value. "**Value them not, and they will disappear. Esteem them, and they will seem real to you.**" (W.129.5.4-5) The world we see is a reflection of the thought system of the ego. This is a thought system based on sin, guilt and fear in the mind projected on the world, so how could we expect to see anything else except that which we project. There truly is no world. It is just a massive defense system against the guilt and fear in our minds. It keeps us from seeing we have a choice and can, indeed, dismiss the ego. When we see that God's love holds more value than the ego's fear-based world of specialness and individuality, we will make this choice. It is when we come to a crossroads in our lives and admit the life we have lived does not nurture us. We yearn for much more depth.

As long as we still fear God's love, we will defend against it. The world was made as a place where we could hide from the punishment we fear God has in store for us. The ego has convinced us that we have sinned against God and that we are guilty of destroying our home in Heaven and can never return. The world was made to exclude God and to protect the egoic thought that God's love is not enough. We chose instead the tiny mad idea of separation. We wanted specialness, uniqueness, and our individuality. Since He can't give us more than everything, we decided to be our own god instead, and make a world for ourselves in which we could get everything we thought we wanted. The ego promised us our autonomy. What it did not tell us is that this would come with a great deal of pain and suffering with occasional pleasure to keep us invested in the world.

The thought that we don't need God and can do it on our own engenders so much guilt, and fear that God will destroy us. The ego's answer for all the guilt was to make up a world and a body

where we could hide from God. Jesus says that we think we made a place of safety for ourselves and a power that we think could save us from all the fearful things we see in dreams, (M.16.6.3-4) yet it is a place that teaches only despair. **"Everyone who follows the world's curriculum, and everyone here does follow it until he changes his mind, teaches solely to convince himself that he is what he is not. Herein is the purpose of the world. What else, then, would its curriculum be? Into this hopeless and closed learning situation, which teaches nothing but despair and death, God sends His teachers. And as they teach His lessons of joy and hope, their learning finally becomes complete."** (M.IN.4.4-8)

We have the power and are given the help to change our minds about where our safety and protection really lie. They do not lie in the world. The things we think will protect us and bring us pleasure in the world ultimately fail to deliver. We already know this is true when we look honestly at the outcomes of our lives. We have a false sense of safety when we take our vitamins, lock our doors, take out insurance policies, count on enduring relationships, and rely on our bank accounts. They are all illusions of safety and protection, and they all, ultimately fail us because they can never protect us from the pain of our own guilt. Jesus asks us to, **"Think a while about what the world calls sacrifice. Power, fame, money, physical pleasure; who is the 'hero' to whom all these things belong? Could they mean anything except to a body?"** (M.13.2.5-6) They keep us prisoners to the world. **"Value them not, and they will disappear. Esteem them, and they will seem real to you."** (W.129.5.4-5) Again, we are not asked to give up what we still value. That would seem like a sacrifice, and sacrifice is not asked of us. Jesus only urges us to see the choice available to us and see the nothingness of what the ego offers us.

What makes the world lovely is when we shift our purpose and no longer look at the world and body as a place to hide but as a classroom for forgiveness. The people, events, and situations we encounter allow us to get in touch with our unconscious guilt by mirroring what is in our minds that we would not otherwise see. These unconscious beliefs in the mind rule our lives and need to be brought to awareness for healing to occur. Healing can only occur when we are willing to look at the darkness with the light that Jesus holds for us as he goes through the darkness with us. We need not go alone. He does not judge what is seen and asks that we not judge ourselves. When we use the world and our relationships, which are filled with specialness, need, lack, expectations, hate, judgment, and pain as the curriculum and turn to Jesus as our teacher, we have hope of achieving the real world, which shines bright with peace and joy.

I was watching a news program recently and noticing judgments I had about the commentator. The Holy Spirit prompted me to write down what I saw in her that I was judging. I wrote that she is arrogant, controlling, impatient, and superior. I could see this was coming from my own mind and I could willingly put these blocks to love on the altar so my mind could be healed. There is no need for self-judgment but only for appreciation for the mind that is willing to acknowledge whatever judgments block the truth. We are always only seeing our own minds reflected back to us since nothing is outside of the mind.

Our purpose today is to decide for what we really want by practicing willingness. Take ten minutes, three times today, to affirm, **"Beyond this world there is a world I want. I choose to see that world instead of this, for here is nothing that I really want,"** (W.129.7.3-4) but don't let this thought escape you throughout the day.

To give up this world is to give up nothing while gaining everything. It means that we let go of upsets as they arise during the day. If we let go of the small upsets as they arise and stay vigilant throughout the day, then when the seemingly big disturbances show up, our daily practice will put us in good stead. By giving up our judgments and grievances as they arise, the day proceeds more

smoothly. When we give up planning for all the perceived needs we think we have, we increasingly learn to trust and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we look at things in the world that we cherish and withdraw the value we have placed on them, we learn that they don't define us.

Feel the confidence the Holy Spirit has in you today. **"Tell Him you know you cannot fail because you trust in Him. And tell yourself you wait in certainty to look upon the world He promised you. From this time forth you will see differently."** (W.75.8.1-3)

Try to get in touch with your desire to see a world of meaning. This world is totally harmless, peaceful, benign, and loving, without a trace of pain or loss. Visualize the lights of Heaven shining on your eyelids as you rest beyond the world of darkness; it is a light your eyes cannot behold, but your mind can see plainly. Today is a day of grace.

Whenever you become aware of thoughts of judgment, specialness, or attack, bring them to the Holy Spirit and recognize that you can look at any situation with Him and know peace today instead of pain. To keep ego thoughts is to defend against the purpose of forgiveness and awakening from this dream. Ask yourself if you want to use this situation, this event, or this problem to stay invested in the illusion or awaken to who you are.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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