## THE PULSE OF SPIRIT



## OUT OF THE HUMAN PINBALL MACHINE JUNE 30, 2014

Imagine that someone drew pure water from a mountain stream. Before they gave you a sip of this pure water, they put into it several drops of deadly poison, and then encouraged you to have a drink—because after all, it was pure mountain water.

The problem, of course, is that something isn't pure the minute you introduce an impurity into it, particularly something toxic. This is a good metaphor for what's happened to Christianity, and most particularly what has happened to the teaching of Universal Love that Jesus brought into the world. Yesterday I was writing about his teaching of Universal Love. And in writing about it, I was aware that whoever might be reading what I was writing would be faced with exactly this issue—that there is this teaching of Universal Love that Jesus brought into the world, and yet there have been all these false political and religious overlays placed on top of the pure teaching. And therefore, for many good reasons, the reader would be likely to reject what I was writing, unless I could find some way to surgically remove, in the mind of the reader, the toxic messages that have overlaid the original teaching.

One thing I like to recall for my readers is the fact that the Roman Empire crucified Jesus and then persecuted his followers—threw them to the lions—and then turned around several hundred years later and claimed that Rome, itself, was the chief proponent of his teaching. They co-opted his teaching and turned it into a religion. That should have aroused some level of suspicion on the part of some, I would have thought. But as it's said, the victors write the history, and the general populace is gullible. So bringing that to people's attention, I hope that they'll take another look at the teaching itself.

I had an interesting experience in the remainder of my day. After working on this writing I went to a party and saw all kinds of old friends. And it was delightful in many respects. And in other respects, there was some challenge for me in the whole thing. To be quite honest, there were people at that party who, in the now distant past, have treated me dreadfully. So I had the opportunity to address any remaining sense of my own victimhood. And here I had just written this piece on Universal Love!

So I walked into the party, full of all the joyful thoughts and feelings that had come up for me as I wrote. I had become so deeply passionate about Jesus' teaching on Universal Love. So, filled with all that, I walked into this party, and in minutes, the question arose within me: "Okay, Dave, how are you going to be here?" And it was for me a wonderful moment of surrender to Universal Love, just letting Universal Love be present in and through me and with the other people who were there. And as it often goes for us as human things, it was easier for me with some people than others. But from the standpoint of being Universal Love, it is all the same.

I would like to read to you from Jesus' teaching on Universal Love from the Sermon on the Mount. Of course, his whole life was that teaching. He was a living embodiment of that. Whatever happened to him, whatever victimhood he might have been able to buy into, he always returned what came to him with his powerful expression that was not reactive to what was happening but was proactive in bringing Universal Love into the world. So he was a living embodiment of what he taught.

Here is one of the ways it came to focus in words:

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil.

(*Matthew* 5:38, 39)

What a wonderful economy of words to address the issue of his day. And it is the issue to *this* day, is it not? He was exhorting people to come out of a revenge mentality, a reactive mentality. And has that way of thinking and acting really changed in the world at large very much? It is pervasive at so many levels. It is why nations go to war, and why people battle. It is why there is struggle within people and in relationships.

Jesus also says this:

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

(Matthew 5:41)

Do you ever listen to someone talk and feel like they were compelling you to go about *ten* miles with them? So in various ways, people show lack of consideration and require some understanding from us. So if we are going with people two miles when they only asked for one, we are going the extra mile to understand other people, to give them the benefit of the doubt, to give them an opportunity.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

(Matthew 5:43-46)

Clearly he is speaking about Universal Love, and exhorting people to love their enemies. I think sometimes it gets tough to love your friends too! So I want to speak to why this is such a potent, empowering teaching. When most people hear about unconditional love, and turning the other cheek, they think, "Oh, well, that would be good, that would be nice. We would be nice people if we were loving people." But what's being said leads to something so much more vast than that.

When you choose to love in a way that is not dependent on how other people are acting, you are, first of all, freeing yourself. You are freeing yourself, because up to that point, how you are acting is being controlled by other people. Other people are making you act as you are acting. They are conditioning your action. You are, in a very real way, their prisoner. You are not your own person. You are not deciding how you want to be in your life, and then being that way.

At a practical level, how other people act does rightly influence how we're going to be to them. We don't act the same to someone who's openly loving to us as we do to somebody who's got a gun in their hand. At a practical level, there is a difference. But at an energetic level, at a spiritual

level, there doesn't have to be. We could be the same way with that person with the gun in their hand as we are with the person who is openly loving. In fact, being unconditionally loving is a very powerful way to be with a man who's got a gun in his hand, or in any situation.

We inherit superhuman power when we love unconditionally. We truly do. We become amazing, powerful people. We carry an energy that is uncommon. We understand things in a penetrating way that someone who does not love unconditionally cannot understand. We understand other people. We see situations with penetrating vision—x-ray vision!

To love unconditionally is to be powerful, not weak. Jesus' teaching of turning the other cheek has been taken to be a teaching of acquiescence, of being a doormat. "We'll just acquiesce to whatever is happening and just go along with it because we're unconditionally loving." A person who is unconditionally loving is not a doormat and is not a martyr, and does not acquiesce.

As I walked into the party last night, I was thinking about all the reactive reasons why people do things. They do something because somebody else did something, and they react to that. Or this happened, and so, because this happened, I'm acting this way. It's so easy for a group of people to be a human pinball machine with balls bouncing all around. The reaction of one person becomes the cause of someone else's action, so there are these causative factors that are bouncing off other people. This person says this to this person; this person reacts in this way; this person reacts in that way. So, if you are not careful, in the midst of that, you accept as a cause for your own words, your own actions, one of these pinballs that are flying around the machine.

In that moment when I walked into that room, I felt all that in the lives of the people that I was connected to—all the reasons everybody did all the things they've done in their lives. There I was, facing all that. My own integrity was on the line because, the truth of unconditional love was shining bright in my mind and heart. The question was whether I was going to be part of that pinball machine, part of the who-said-what-to-whom reality of life or be true to the reality of love within me.

I realized that as I love unconditionally, I'm bringing a different kind of cause into my world. I'm saying that these pinballs are not causing me to do anything. What's causing me to do what I do is the One Creative Cause of all Creation. That's what unconditional love is. Unconditional love is not just a person being good. Unconditional love is a person who is accepting the Cause of the Universe that is within them as the cause and reason for their life, as the impetus for their life. A person who's truly loving unconditionally is bringing Universal Cause into their world.

And that's why, when we love unconditionally, we are gaining superhuman powers. We're gaining the powers of the cause of the universe that's in our atoms, in our cells, in our bodies, and which is constellating as us and now is being embodied as a human being on earth.

It doesn't get any better than that. To be in that reality... To know the assurance of that reality... To know that whatever happens I will be in that reality... I will bring that reality, and it doesn't matter what anyone else does or says or anything. I am here, being me. I am the positive cause of the Universe, embodied in human flesh as David.

I believe that's true of each and every one of us. Only there is a veil which is the belief that it's somehow expeditious to be vengeful and reactive—that it gets us someplace, that it accomplishes something. Yes, it accomplishes something: It stops us from being who we are. It stops us from being powerful, from being large, from being loving, from being wise. It keeps us from other people.

So I loved being there yesterday. I loved extending my greetings, my joy, to other people. I loved walking up to an old friend and telling her that it made my day just to see her. The idea comes into my mind that I could be Universal Cause with other people in the human world. I could be that for you. Not that I can substitute for that cause in your own life and within you—I know I can't. But I can embody it. I can remind another person, "This is what it feels like to be true to who you are. Resonate with this! Transcend the pinball state of human existence. Find your centering in Universal Cause, and then embody it. *Be* it!"

The discipline of expressing Universal Love in every moment is the highest spiritual discipline in the world. To commit yourself to do that, and then, when all your humanity comes up and tells you to do something else—to get mad and get even and be reactive—this is the discipline of loving unconditionally. It requires that you express your *Beingness* into and through your human tendencies and change the reactive patterns in yourself.

It is, at the same time, the hardest thing that anyone has ever done and the easiest. It's the hardest because people are so habituated to being reactive and doing something else; and it's the easiest because it's the most natural thing in the world to be yourself and to express unconditional love, which is your very nature. And therefore it is also the easiest thing to do. Let that energy penetrate every nerve and gland and tissue, every part of who you are. Let it penetrate all those dark places, all those morphic fields of your subconscious mind that want to do something else, and let it repattern it all on the pattern of Universal Love.

That's a life worth living. It is our gift to the world because that repatterning, as it occurs and is shown to the world, reveals true beauty.

So I honor Jesus' teaching and the man himself—his endurance, his integrity, his good name which has been sullied by false religious ideas about him. His teaching is being rejected by many people today because of that poison. So it is an honor for me to do whatever I can to save his name in the minds of people. For himself, it doesn't need saving, I'm sure. But if I can save his good name in the minds of people and resurrect their appreciation for his teaching of Universal Love, that would be an honor for me. It would gladden my heart. It was the most powerful teaching that's ever been brought to this planet.

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