

**1THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE     September 28, 2008     Rev. J. Keene**  
**SOMETIMES WE KEEP OURSELVES SO BUSY - COMING, GOING,**  
**DOING, AND AS THOREAU SAYS - GETTING AND SPENDING - THAT**  
**WE LOSE OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS. WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE**  
**BIG PICTURE. WE ARE ON A GIANT TREADMILL, GOING**  
**NOWHERE. INDIAN SHAMAN LAME DEER PUT IT THIS WAY: SOME**  
**STUMBLE ALONG ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE - A PAVED**  
**HIGHWAY WHICH THEY THEMSELVES BULLDOZE & MAKE**  
**SMOOTH SO THEY CAN GET FASTER TO THE BIG EMPTY HOLE**  
**THEY FEAR WILL SWALLOW THEM UP IN THE END. . . .**

**WE'VE HEARD A LOT LATELY ABOUT THE ALASKA BRIDGE TO**  
**NOWHERE - AND JUST THIS WEEK IT CAME OUT THAT ACTUALLY**  
**A ROAD HAS ALREADY BEEN BUILT TO THE BRIDGE THAT LEADS**  
**TO NOWHERE. WHAT A METAPHOR FOR WHAT GOES ON IN RACE**  
**CONSCIOUSNESS!**

**WHAT IS RACE CONSCIOUSNESS? WE ARE ALL SEPARATE AND**  
**WE'D BETTER GET ALL WE CAN WHILE WE CAN. WE HAVE**  
**ENEMIES AND WE MUST PLAY THE GAME OF ATTACK AND**  
**DEFEND. THE MORE STUFF WE CAN ACCUMULATE THE BETTER**  
**OFF WE ARE. . .HE WHO DIES WITH THE MOST TOYS WINS. . . .THIS**  
**CONSCIOUSNESS IS AT THE CENTER OF THE CURRENT MESSSES IN**  
**OURSELVES, OUR COUNTRY AND IN THE WORLD. . .**

**SO WHAT CAN YOU AND I DO? WHAT SHOULD YOU AND I DO??**  
**WAKE UP? GET REAL? GO DEEPER? EXPAND OUR HORIZONS?**  
**YES, ALL OF THOSE THINGS. . .BUT WHERE DO WE START?**

**FIRST: WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE ARE**  
**CONNECTED - THEN WE MUST LOVE AND FORGIVE OURSELVES**  
**AND EACH OTHER. . . .SIMPLE. . .AND YET THE WORK OF**  
**LIFETIMES. . . .**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE LARGEST LIVING ORGANISM IN THE**  
**WORLD IS A GROVE OF ASPEN TREES IN UTAH? THIS GROVE**  
**COVERS 106 ACRES AND IS CONNECTED BY A SINGLE**  
**UNDERGROUND ROOT STRUCTURE. SOME TREES ARE LARGE,**  
**SOME SMALL, SOME BEAUTIFUL, SOME BARREN, BUT THEY ARE**  
**ALL CONNECTED.**

**YOU AND I, LIKE THE TREES IN THIS GROVE ARE ALL**  
**CONNECTED. WE HAVE THE SAME ROOT SYSTEM - WE ARE ALL**  
**SPIRIT - EVEN THOUGH WE APPEAR DIFFERENT - WE HAVE THE**  
**SAME ROOTS - WE ARE ONE IN SPIRIT. WHAT AFFECTS ONE,**  
**AFFECTS ALL. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.**

**THE ONLY SANE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEMS IS TO SEE THAT WE ARE ONE. THIS MEANS WE SEE OUR NEIGHBOR AS ONE WITH US NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE MAY DISAGREE OR HOW DIFFERENT OUR LIFESTYLES MAY BE. UNDERNEATH IT ALL WE ARE ONE. NO ONE IS LEFT OUT.**

**A SECTION IN COURSE IN MIRACLES TALKS ABOUT THE JUSTICE OF HEAVEN - WHICH IS BASED ON FORGIVENESS AND LOVE FOR ALL- WITH NO EXCEPTIONS - SOME BRIEF QUOTES:**

**1. FORGO ALL VALUES OF THIS WORLD IN FAVOR OF THE PEACE OF HEAVEN. (THE VALUES OF THIS WORLD WILL TRAP US ON THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE)**

**2. BE CERTAIN ANY ANSWER TO A PROBLEM THE HOLY SPIRIT SOLVES WILL ALWAYS BE ONE IN WHICH NO ONE LOSES. -NO ONE DESERVES TO LOSE. A MIRACLE IS NOT A SPECIAL GIFT TO SOME, TO BE WITHHELD FROM OTHERS AS LESS WORTHY. EVERYONE IS EQUALLY ENTITLED TO HEALING AND DELIVERANCE AND PEACE.**

**3. THE UNFORGIVEN HAVE NO MERCY TO BESTOW UPON ANOTHER. THIS IS WHY YOUR SOLE RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE TO TAKE FORGIVENESS FOR YOURSELF. NO ONE CAN LOSE, AND EVERYONE MUST BENEFIT IN THE JUSTICE OF HEAVEN. (THE COURSE TEACHES THAT BY FORGIVING OTHERS, WE ARE ALSO FORGIVING OURSELVES. - THIS MAKES SENSE WHEN WE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ALL ONE; WE HAVE THE SAME ROOT SYSTEM. WHEN I FORGIVE YOU, I FORGIVE MYSELF AS WELL. . . . SO WHAT IS IT THAT KEEPS US WANDERING AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING FOR THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE SIDE ROADS THAT LEAD NOWHERE? WE'VE FALLEN ASLEEP TO THE TRUTH OF OUR BEING, LIVING IN A SERIES OF DREAMS. THE COURSE TELLS US THAT WE ARE ACTUALLY ALREADY SAFE IN HEAVEN, DREAMING OF SEPARATION - DREAMING PLEASANT DREAMS & NIGHTMARES. SO THE SOLUTION SEEMS TO BE TO WAKE UP - TO SEE WHAT HIGHWAY WE'RE ON.**

**4. TO GIVE A PROBLEM TO THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SOLVE MEANS THAT YOU WANT IT SOLVED. (ON THE HUMAN LEVEL WE LOSE OUR BEARINGS -BECOME FASCINATED WITH ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF THE CARNIVAL SIDE SHOWS WE FIND ON THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE.. .IF WE DON'T CHOOSE TO SURRENDER TO SPIRIT AND ACCEPT THE GUIDANCE OF SPIRIT, WE REMAIN**

**STUCK ON THIS ROAD TO NOWHERE. SOMETIMES ITS CALLED BEING STUCK ON THE KARMIC WHEEL. )**

**I FIND THAT I SWITCH BACK AND FORTH. I GO THROUGH PERIODS OF EXPERIENCING MOSTLY LOVE AND PEACE. THEN SOMETHING “OUT THERE” DISTURBS ME AND I LOSE MY WAY - I HAVE TAKEN A WRONG TURN AND I’M BACK ON THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE.**

**WHAT TO DO? HOW CAN I KNOW I’M ON THE WRONG ROAD? TEST IS: AM I FEELING LOVE - PEACE - JOY?? AM I ABLE TO FORGIVE EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. DO I SEE AND FEEL THE ONENESS - THE SINGLE ROOT SYSTEM? IF SO, I’M ON THE RIGHT PATH. OR: AM I FEELING ANGER, RESENTMENT, FEAR, READY TO DO BATTLE? DO I FEEL SEPARATE? THINK OTHERS ARE OUT TO DO ME IN? IF SO, I’M ON THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE. WHEN I REALIZE I’M ON THE WRONG ROAD - I THANK GOD I HAVE THE MEANS TO GET BACK ON THE RIGHT ONE. . . PRAYER, MEDITATION, SURRENDER, TRUST, FORGIVENESS. . SPIRITUAL GUIDEBOOKS SUCH AS THE BIBLE, THE COURSE AND THE INTERIOR CASTLE HELP US TO TRAVEL IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. . . .**

**WHEN WE TURN AROUND, THE GRACE OF GOD WILL SHOW US THE WAY - WILL RESTORE OUR SANITY - WILL GET US BACK UNTO THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN - THE HIGHWAY OF LOVE, PEACE AND JOY. . . .**

**HERE IS A STORY THAT POINTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:**

**Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best. He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another. He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confidante and was always kind, considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times. The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her! One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time**

was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone." Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart. The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!" replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!" His heart sank and turned cold. He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!" replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only send you to your grave." Her answer came like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated. Then a voice called out: "I'll leave with you and follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was skinny & suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, we all have 4 wives in our lives: Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die. Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others. Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave. And our 1st wife is our Spirit, often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our Spirit is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. So cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us who will lead us to Heaven and continue with us throughout Eternity.

**WE CHERISH AND STRENGTHEN OUR SPIRIT WHEN WE CHOOSE TO STOP THE MAD SCRAMBLE OF MEANINGLESS ACTIVITY ON THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE - WHEN WE CHOOSE TO SEEK FIRST**

**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WITHIN. WHEN WE MAKE THE PEACE OF GOD OUR ONE GOAL. .IN THE END, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE.**

**FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE COURSE:**

**THE SENSELESS IS NOT MADE MEANINGFUL BY REPETITION AND BY CLAMOR. THE QUIET WAY IS OPEN. FOLLOW IT HAPPILY - COME HOME TO HEAVEN. . .**

**FROM LESSON 41: GOD GOES WITH ME WHEREVER I GO**

**YOU CAN NEVER BE DEPRIVED OF YOUR PERFECT HOLINESS BECAUSE ITS SOURCE GOES WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. THE SOURCE OF ALL JOY GOES WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE GOES WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. THE PEACE OF GOD GOES WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.**

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ALL THIS. HOW COULD YOU WHEN THE TRUTH IS HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN, UNDER A HEAVY CLOUD OF INSANE THOUGHTS, DENSE AND OBSCURING, YET REPRESENTING ALL YOU SEE? ATTEMPT TO GET PAST THIS DARK AND HEAVY CLOUD, AND GO THROUGH IT TO THE LIGHT BEYOND.**

**LET'S DECIDE TO GET OFF THE HIGHWAY TO NOWHERE AND MOVE UNTO THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN. . . .**