

Community Circles

March 10, 2021

Peace in Every Step, with Rev. Marylou Palmer



Aired 3/07/2021 – [Watch on YouTube](#) (high-speed available)

*I have walked 25,000 miles as a penniless pilgrim. I own only what I wear and what I carry in my small pockets. I belong to no organization. I have said that I will walk until given shelter and fast until given food, remaining a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace. And I can truthfully tell you that without ever asking for anything, I have been supplied with everything needed for my journey, which shows you how **good** people really are.*

*With me I carry always my peace message: **This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.***

~ Peace Pilgrim.

She introduced herself as a pilgrim - walking not **to** a place but **for** an idea. Born in 1908 in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey as Mildred Lisette Norman, she realized after a failed marriage and the shock of the Great Depression that she was here for a reason, and she needed to find it. In 1939, after a night walking through the woods, she underwent what she called a “great spiritual experience” in which she felt that God called her to a life of service. She said it was a point of no return. It was the beginning of what she called “living to give, not to get.” For the next fourteen years, she searched for her specific place and calling. She worked with senior citizens, those with emotional problems, and then volunteered for peace organizations.

On January 1, 1953, at age 44, she adopted the name Peace Pilgrim, put on a blue tunic on which she wrote the name in big letters, and set out to walk. She chose blue for her clothing because it is the international color of peace. Between that day and her death 28 years later in 1981, she crossed the United States 7 times on foot and walked over 25k miles. At some point she stopped counting the miles. She had no 501c3, no van driving behind her for support. She took no money.

As Rev. Marylou noted in her talk, Peace Pilgrim first answered the question “what is mine to do?” Her process was part inspiration (the walk in the woods) and likely many parts reflection and introspection. ***What is your process for finding what is yours to do?***

She then lived the truth she discovered, in quite a radical way. No small alterations here – she left her home, released most of her possessions, and simply began to walk as a pilgrim of peace. What did Rev. Marylou say on Sunday? We each teach our truth through our **actions**, not our words. While Peace Pilgrim certainly spoke about peace, it was her actions that gave her words meaning and power.

Peace Pilgrim was a true Teacher of God, through her life and her words.

A Course in Miracles gives us what it calls the 10 characteristics of Teachers of God, and on Sunday Rev. Marylou led us through a visualization based upon these ten characteristics.¹ *Here are the ten characteristics – how do they show up in your life? What is your response to this list? What elements in your life lead to the holy?*

I trust the situation completely, because I recognize that it is truly governed by the gentle Power of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, I understand that all things, events, encounters, and circumstances are truly helpful to everyone.

I am perfectly honest in every way; everything I think, say, and do is absolutely consistent; I live in perfect integrity. My thoughts are in total agreement with each other. I keep my word; when I say I will do something, I do it. This integrity brings me deep peace of mind.

I am tolerant of everyone and everything because I do not judge them. All things and all people are equally acceptable in my sight.

I am wholly gentle, because I recognize that in truth I can neither harm nor be harmed. I understand that no gain can come from harming anyone or anything. My gentleness is not weakness; rather, it is the source of my strength.

I am joyous, because I fear nothing and have learned that I cannot suffer. My joy is my song of thanks to my Creator—how joyous it is to share this Life of the Divine with one and all!

I am utterly defenseless because I have no illusions to defend. Thus, I see no one as a threat to me; I see nothing as dangerous. As I lay down my defenses, I find safety, peace, joy, and the love of God.

I am generous beyond measure, because I recognize that the only way to keep what I really want is to give it away. I am ready to give away anything I have, if doing so serves the plan for salvation. And in freely giving away my material resources, I also give the true gift that they represent—the love of God. By giving the love of God to others, I ensure that all, including myself, will recognize that the love of God is truly theirs to give.

I am patient with everyone and everything because I realize that salvation is certain and will unfold with perfect timing. I understand that everything that has ever happened to anyone has served to benefit the world. Even so, I am willing to reconsider all my own past decisions if they are causing pain to anyone.

I am totally faithful: consistent and unwavering in applying what I have learned from this Path of Peace to every situation in my life. This faithfulness to my path reflects my greater faithfulness and devotion to the Power of the Universe, to God, and to all my sisters and my brothers. In faithfulness to Them, I rest in quiet certainty.

Finally, I am open-minded, open only to the Voice of God's Teacher WITHIN, and closed to the voice of judgment and condemnation When I listen only to the Holy Spirit's Voice

¹ The Visualization was based on the Blog post entitled Behavior MATTERS by Greg Mackie from Circle of Atonement and based on A Course in Miracles Manual for Teachers.

and no other, my forgiveness of the world is finally made complete. And when I forgive completely, the world will sparkle with newness and joy and shining glory beyond what I can presently imagine. It is given me to bring the glad tidings of complete forgiveness to the world. Blessed indeed am I, for I am the bringer of salvation.