

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

A Pearl of Great Worth

I have lots of things in common with friends that I've known for many years.

Common events have helped to form the bonds between us. New friends, however, mean new bonds will have to be built from different experiences.

Initially, though, we may feel as if we come from different worlds...different "creations." And in some respects, we do.

Our memories are uniquely our own. We may share some experiences for awhile, but how these memories are perceived will be based on our previous experiences and memories. We tend to see things through the eyes of who we already are.

For instance, memories are like pearls to me. The center core is laid down by my perception of some experience. The first time that I remember that experience, I feel as though I am reliving whatever happened...but, at the same time, I realize that it is only a memory rather than the real thing. The second time that this memory comes to mind, I experience the second layer of the pearl; the original experience is seen in the context of the first time that I remembered. Each remembrance adds another layer to the memory.

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The original experience may have been a “good” one or a “bad” one, but in the end, it will be my memories of that experience, layer upon layer, which will determine who I have become.

Maybe that’s why the Kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. A speck of dust, to begin with, perhaps...but in the end, a jewel of great worth.

And maybe that’s why, as each layer of the Creation story unfolds, again and again, we are called to remember that

“God saw that it was good.” [Gen. 1:4; 1:10; 1:18, 19; 1:21, 22; 1:25; 1:31]

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