

A Word from Mack

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Jewels around us reflect God's love

Have you ever noticed the sales techniques of a successful jeweler? A wise merchant will first spread and then smooth the darkest cloth possible for the display of the diamonds (other precious stones require various colored cloths.) The purpose of this effectively simple backdrop is to highlight the shining of the stones when the merchant pours them like a tumbling white-water river onto the black velvet. Then the brilliance of strategically placed spot lamps reflected by the stones makes it seem that the darkest of cloths has burst into a thousand points of light.

It is riveting. And this age-old method has caused even the cheapest of men to empty their pockets to express their devotion to the object of their love. So it is with jewelry. And so it is with our love relationships.

We all know that the sale of jewels will not solve the deep issues of life. We know that no superfluous material adornment can solve a relational or spiritual divide. Yet this process I have described does have a certain connection to a reality facing all of us. There is a black cloth and there are jewels in our present every day circumstances.

Let me spread and smooth the darkest of cloths regarding our condition. The reality is that as long as we have lived together, we have never been able to initiate, grow, and sustain a human community which becomes a perpetual life-giving and enhancing society. Every society we have grown has imploded. And the consequences are as dark as night: we are not growing better and better human beings with each generation. Black velvet.

If we are to make it here on a healed earth, then we must learn to methodically, measurably, and effectively grow safe and loving communities which produce competent and compassionate human beings through an intentional multiplier effect. We must flood the world with caring people who know how to produce more caring people in simple yet very real ways.

So how do we solve this massive problem? Here come the jewels!

With every attempt to create a new society there has been and there is failure. It is the sage of utopian thinking. We are incapable of growing a society that is loving and caring. Einstein was right when he observed, "No problem can possibly be solved by the same conscious that created it." So isn't it strange to see that the first jewel to fall on the black velvet is the realization that we are incapable of producing this inexorable urge to live and love together in peace and sharing safety?

Yet that is precisely the point. I can't even live with me. How can a thousand like me comprise a wonderful community? (As my Dad used to say, "Three tugboats do not a battleship

make.”) So here is the first jewel that opens the possibility for the river of jewels to flow: I can’t do it. I need help.

And now see The Jewel: LOVE! Love that made us. Love that lives within us. Love that lives among us. God is Love and whoever loves lives in God and God lives in them. We are only able to love because God loved us first. God invented this self-giving reality we call love. And by some wonderful way God comes to live within us and reach through us to others when we stop trying on our own to make a new world, a new city, a new me. Now a new consciousness is born by and through which we learn to commit ourselves to God’s Love and to love one another. We become aware of a power outside of ourselves, yet within us that brings us together. “Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” “Behold, I make all things new.”

When you let love live inside you, you become a jewel to others.