

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Following the White Rabbit

This week has been the “pits.” If there was ever a time for righteous indignation, the past 5 days were it. So, naturally, I got to thinking about all the injustices of the world—lies and deceits reaping benefits, the rich getting richer, the powerful tromping on the weak, and every other dark and depressing thought.

I was sinking fast into this black hole when I happened to notice a magnifying glass sitting on the table next to me. Like “Alice in Wonderland,” it might as well have had a sign on it saying, “Pick me up and play with me.” So I did. And the result of this was twofold: first, my anger was short circuited and, secondly, my brain was engaged. A glimmer of something began to emerge...

If you’ve ever played with a magnifying glass, you may remember that the lens bends the light in order to make it bigger...but, if you get too far away from the object that you’re viewing, the image becomes inverted and you’re suddenly looking at the object upside down.

The same principle is at work in the human eye. Light from an image enters the eye through the lens. This convex structure bends the light, but the retina is just far enough away so that the image is inverted by the time it reaches this part of the eye. Consequently, our first impression of the world around us is an upside-down one.

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Luckily, however, the brain intervenes and sets things “right” by interpreting the retinal image as an inversion of the way things really are. It reminded me of the Bible and Jesus’ teachings. These, too, seemed to upend all that I had initially perceived to be true (particularly this week).

The lowly are lifted up,
The meek will inherit the earth, and
Blessed are the poor in spirit.

And, suddenly, it seemed time for me to “wake up,” for I was beginning to perceive a light at the end of the tunnel:

My brain had intervened to change my initial impression of what was
visible in the world;
but Jesus had intervened in the world to change my initial impression of
what was Real...in God’s sight;
and to gently remind me to stop following the White Rabbit, for

“A little child shall lead them.” [Isa. 11:6]

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