

The Broken Fruit Jar

Pulitzer-Prize winning author Alice Walker once had this to say about the joy of being honest.

“When I was a little girl, I accidentally broke a fruit jar. Several brothers and a sister were nearby who could have done it. But my father turned to me and asked, ‘Did you break the jar, Alice?’



“Looking into his large brown eyes, I knew he wanted me to tell the truth. I also knew he might punish me if I did. But truth inside of me wanted badly to be expressed. ‘I broke the jar,’ I said.

“The love in his eyes rewarded and embraced me. Suddenly I felt an inner peace that I still recall with gratitude to this day.”

A person does feel good after telling the truth, doing the noble thing, showing kindness, meeting a need, or expressing love to a spouse. It is the way God made us.

We must recognize, however, that the perception of “good” lies within. We must never allow it to be determined by the response of another person. We are to do right *because* it is right, not because it is effective in bringing a reward, for sometimes doing the right thing produces painful consequences. What matters most, however, is the long view.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8).

– Beecher Hunter