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YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A BUTTER-DISH

Recently a morning crash from our kitchen jolted me from sleep. When such things happen before my coffee, it is usually not a good start. Next my daughter appeared crying “I’m so sorry! I didn’t mean it!”

After calming our crying child we learned that our favorite Waterford crystal butter-dish had been shattered into thousands of pieces while she was attempting to butter her morning toast.

Our butter-dish was a family treasure. An heirloom that, other than the obvious uses, had the utility of keeping our cat from licking the soft butter on the table. Any uncovered butter in our house is taste-tested by our feline showing the tell-tale lick marks!

My first instinct was to gather the family and extoll the virtues of not rushing, being careful, and all the like. Fortunately a better Spirit inspired me. With my most



serious look I firmly addressed my pensive daughters ... “listen to me” ... I said ... “you are more important than a butter dish.” At first they seemed shocked or stunned. So was my wife! To emphasize the point, I repeated again “you are more important than a butter dish.” Next I gave a “daddy-talk” on why people are more important than things. As part of the exercise I asked my children to list all the important things they could name. After each thing, I would refrain ... “you are more important.” This brought a smile for a while, until the girls became bored with the game. We drove the girls to school smiling at our blessings.

When the girls’ Nana learned of the butter-dish incident she brought over a small cardboard box and had the girls unwrap it carefully. Inside was a note ... “I fixed this because you are so worth it.” Privately she confessed that she had two identical butter-dishes and gave us the other one so the girls would not feel so sad.

The happy ending is that, firstly, we all learned a lesson... and we can still keep the cat out of the butter! Funny how that butter dish taught us so much that morning. Our God himself shows us a similar principle through Jesus, who lived and died for people without even keeping for himself a place to lay his head. See Luke 9:58. We strongly recommend teaching children to value people more than things for their happy and healthy life.

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