

Audio Script #3

Quilts and Other Precious Possessions: Making Meaning in Your Life

If I was in your circle today, I'd bring a quilt to share with you. I'd tell you it was made by my grandmother, the one I called More Nana. Yes, that was her name. I was the first grandchild. We lived for a while with Nana and Papa. And then I got to know my maternal grandparents, so I named them More Nana and More Papa!

More Nana's quilt was made quickly, with flour sacks as backing, whatever fabric she had at hand, and less than artistic stitches. More Nana made quilts when they were needed for warmth on a bed. Her quilts were simple and practical.

The quilt tells me something of the substance of her life. It speaks to her values and to her nature. This quilt is more than a precious possession, it is an inheritance of her soul.

And it shows me something of who I am. What meaning, or importance or value does it bring to my life? It connects me to a different time. I love that the quilt backing was made of re-cycled flour sacks. I love that the quilt was made for use on a bed when a blanket was needed. This speaks to my desire for simplicity. That's a value hard to achieve in my own life, but the longing is there.

The quilt is also an icon pointing to my love of the Psalms and the one I most associate with my grandmother - Psalm 121 - Unto the Hills. She was an organist. I remember singing Psalms on Sunday afternoon from the back of the little black hymnary.

So it is more than a quilt, it's a symbol that tells me something about my own values and desires; it reminds me of the sustaining power of the Psalms in my spiritual journey.

Take some time to think about what you brought today. It has a story, but think deeply about the reason you brought it. What is it saying about *you*, your life choices, your values, your struggles or what influenced your life? What might it be saying about your spiritual journey? You brought it today for a reason and that makes it a container for spiritual memoir.