

## THE MIRROR

A mirror reflects the image across from it, which may be a blank wall, a table with a vase of flowers or you or me as we walk by. Do we stop and consider our reflection? Of course, because our vanity will cause us to wonder if we are being reflected in the best light. Can I cover that birthmark with a little more makeup? Does my hair really look all right? Is my nose too long or stubby? Am I too fat or too thin? I'm either satisfied by what my reflection shows or I'm not.

God made us all different, but many times our concept of the beauty of that person who looks back at us from the mirror is based on someone else's opinion? The fashion magazines and Hollywood portray tall skinny models that only look like other tall skinny models as the perfect example of the female body. They may not have any imperfections we can see, but according to articles in magazines and newspapers many keep those tall skinny shapes because they are anorexic or are using drugs.

Wouldn't it be a boring world if everyone looked just exactly like you or me? There's an old saying that "beauty is only skin deep." The prettiest young woman or the most handsome young man may be so vain and self-centered no one can stand to be around them since their conceit takes away their beauty. Yet the person some might consider "homely" may have a dynamic personality and inner beauty with love and concern for others, which overshadows their outward appearance.

Isaiah 52:7 says, "How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace." We can thank God He doesn't say anything about what those feet have to look like. They may be flat with crooked toes, in-grown toenails and misshapen ankles, but it doesn't matter as long as they are doing the work of the One who created us.

The first step to being contented with whom and where we are in life is to accept the person we see in the mirror. As we learn to treat others with respect, it will gradually become second nature for us in our walk with the Lord. The change will also show others that He lives in us.

In the creation of the world, God added an equalizer we can all count on if we live long enough. It's called old age. If God has refined us, the ugly become beautiful and the beautiful may now have wrinkles, moles and scars, but if they have God as their master and strength, they will still be beautiful. Let's try to remember it's not what's on the outside we need to make beautiful, but what's on the inside. God bless.

Ellen