



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### A-MAZE-IN Life Series, Lesson 5

**Lesson Title:** Clothes & Image – What Will You Choose?

**Take Home Point:** Let God guide your choices in clothing and image.

#### **Warm-Up:**

I have a friend who is deeply troubled. He has some difficult issues to deal with in his family. He told me about this, so I offered to help. I gathered photos of people that I thought presented an exceptionally beautiful appearance because of how they dressed, wore their hair, or applied makeup. I knew some even had plastic surgery. I showed him the pictures and suggested he pick the one with the most striking appearance as his counselor without regard to credentials or experience. He was incredulous. "What difference does their physical appearance make?" he asked. "I need to talk to someone with spiritual understanding and concern for the human heart. How they look is not important to me!" It's easy to agree with my friend in this made-up story, but how often do we assume our most important impression is made with our outward image?

**Read:** Matthew 6:28-33; Galatians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:3b-4

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

What does God do for those who seek his kingdom first?

Where does true beauty come from?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

What are the consequences of worrying about clothing and image?

What sinful desires are behind being overly concerned about appearance?

#### **Insight:**

The point of today's verses is not that we shouldn't care at all about how we look; the question is what do we focus on? For example, do you spend as much time with Jesus each day as you do in front of the mirror? Take a few moments to think about that. It seems a small thing, but I imagine many people actually expend more time and energy on their outward physical appearance than the spiritual development of their eternal soul. And that really is where true beauty (or handsomeness) comes from. Our consumer-oriented culture is constantly encouraging us to buy this or that product to improve our appearance or make ourselves more attractive to others. There is nothing wrong with wanting to look our best on the outside as long as it doesn't replace wanting our spiritual appearance to be its best, too. Do people want to be around you because you exude a spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, and other spiritual fruits? Do you think your appearance and image allow others to see Jesus in you, or do you overpower him with your looks? These are serious questions, especially for the children we are teaching.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

What do you think people see when they see you? What does God want them to see?

How are you developing the Spirit's fruit in you?

### Kingdom Quest Year 2 – Lesson 5