

The Many Faces of Mary

By Marilyn Reeves

People are like multi-faceted gems. Some of those facets are dark, some are light, some are flawed, some are brilliant.

Take a gem called "Mary" and place her in the center of the room, surrounded by a circle of people.

John falls instantly in love, because the facet facing him is clear, bright, brilliantly beautiful, and he can't imagine there's anything more to Mary than pure perfection.

Wanda, who is sitting next to John has a slightly different perspective, however. While she can see some of that beauty that John sees, Wanda can also see a slight flaw in the facet facing Bob.

All Bob can see is that flaw. It runs right down the middle of the section he's facing. Bob takes an instant dislike to Mary, and even though she may twirl around and show that there are other aspects to her personality, Bob will always focus on that flaw.

And so on, as we go around the circle. Each person looking at Mary will see a different aspect of her, which will leave a lasting impression in their minds.

Let us be cautious as to how we judge one another. Perhaps someone we are meeting for the first time is having a bad day, and we are greeted with a somber face. If we were to have met him on a different day in a different setting, when he was smiling and laughing, we would come away with a completely different impression of that person.

Each of us has a good side and a bad side, a dark side and a light side. Some aspects of our personalities are dull and flawed, while others are bright and beautiful. We should try to withhold judgment of one another until we've gotten to know the whole person, who, like everyone else is multi-faceted.

And therein lies the beauty.