

A Diamond in the Rough

Rafael Solano, a diamond prospector in Venezuela, was one of many impoverished natives and fortune seekers who came to sift through the rocks of a dried-up riverbed reputed to have diamonds.

No one had been fortunate enough to find any diamonds in the sand and pebbles in quite some time. One by one, those who came left the site – their dreams shattered and their bodies drained.

Discouraged and exhausted, Solano almost decided it was time for him to give up, too. He had nothing to show for months of hard work. Then Solano stooped down one last time and scooped up a handful of pebbles, if only so he could say he had personally inspected every pebble in his claim.

From the pebbles in his hand, he pulled out one that seemed a little different. He weighed it in his other hand. It felt heavy. He measured it and weighed it on a scale. Could it be?



Sure enough, Solano had found a diamond in the rough. New York jewelry dealer Harry Winston paid Solano \$200,000 for that stone. When it was cut and polished, it became known as the *Liberator*, and it is considered the largest and purest unmined diamond in the world.

Perhaps, like Solano, you have been plugging away at a project for weeks, even months or years, without seeing much progress. Today may be the day. Don't give up.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of men and women who – on the verge of disappointment, failure or disaster – experienced God's creative work in their lives.

Persevere in what the Lord has asked you to do today, because your rewards will be more than you can think or imagine.

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter