

## Gomer and Mary Grace

There is a great episode of the *Andy Griffith Show* in which Andy and Barney set Gomer up on a date with Thelma Lou's cousin, Mary Grace.



The sheriff and his deputy don't see Mary Grace as very pretty, but Gomer eventually goes to great lengths to make sure she gets a beautiful corsage just like the other girls. To him, Mary Grace's looks or lack thereof did not matter in the least.

Well, that's a television show. But in real life, it's all too easy sometimes to compare ourselves to others, isn't it?

When we work out at the gym, there always seems to be somebody who can lift more weight. Those 5k races you've been doing? It might be hard to reach a goal of finishing in 30 minutes, while others cross the line in 20 without even breaking a sweat.

Our hair might be getting a little grayer in the temples, and wrinkles may be appearing here and there. Other people we know have houses that are newer and bigger than ours, their cars are nicer, and they go on dream vacations. We get out our mental ledger sheet, and things just don't seem to tally very well in our favor.

Despite all that, there is hope. Eliab, one of the sons of Jesse in the Bible, had a lot going for him. It's not hard to picture him standing well over 6 feet tall, with perfect hair and gleaming teeth. His muscles rippled from head to toe. Surely, he would be anointed king over Israel, right? Wrong. God did not judge him on the basis of his appearance, but on his heart.

Eliab's younger brother, David, had the heart of a servant and was anointed king. What does that say about all the comparisons we are prone to make?

Outward appearances simply don't matter much to the King of kings. Your heart – your walk with Him and the way you treat others – is what really counts.

*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).*

– Beecher Hunter