

The People in Your Town

An old man and his grandson sat at a crossroads between two villages.

A traveler passing by from the western village asked the old man about the people in the village to the east.

“What were the people like in the town you have just left?” asked the old man.

“They were mean, deceitful and rude!” said the traveler.

The old man nodded. “You will likely find the people in the eastern village just the same,” he said.



A few hours later, a second traveler heading in the same direction asked the same question. Again, the old man asked about the townsfolk in the village – the one to the west – he had just left.

“They were kindhearted, generous and helpful,” the traveler quickly answered.

The old man nodded. “You will find the people in the next village just the same,” he advised.

“Grandfather,” asked the child after the traveler had gone, “how could you give the same answer to both men?”

The old man smiled.

“I told them the truth. What we find in the world is but a reflection of what is in our hearts.”

There is much wisdom in the old man’s responses. The Holy Bible affirms his words.

What are the people like in the town where you live?

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter