



**September 23, 2020**  
**Pickled Beets**  
**Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13**

"I can't believe it!" Maureen exclaimed as she kept an eye on the news channel while setting the table for dinner. "Jennifer Taylor has everything going for her. she's gorgeous, she's talented, she's rich, she's famous, and—"

"And she has spoiled her life by using drugs—and now she's been arrested," said Maureen's mother, shaking her head. "How sad!"

"If only I looked like that," Maureen said as she watched Jennifer Taylor being led away in handcuffs.

"Don't forget that looks can be deceiving," Mom said. She opened the refrigerator. "Oh, Maureen, please go down to the basement and get a jar of Grandma's pickled beets. We'll have some with our dinner."

"Okay," said Maureen, heading for the stairs. She soon returned with a jar of deep purple-red beets. "Just look at the color of these beets—especially the juice!" she exclaimed as she held the jar up to the light. "I wish I had a sweater this color."

Mom laughed. "They do look beautiful," she agreed.

Maureen handed the jar to her mother. "Oh, no," Mom said as she opened it. "This lid isn't sealed. We'd better not eat these beets. They may be spoiled!"

"But they look just fine," said Maureen.

"They may be okay, but when the lid isn't sealed, bacteria can get in. I'm not going to take a chance," Mom answered. She poured the contents down the garbage disposal. "If they are spoiled, they could cause serious food poisoning."

"Wow!" said Maureen. "I'm glad you noticed that the seal was broken."

"You know, honey, those beets remind me of Jennifer Taylor," Mom said. "She's beautiful and talented. To many people, her life looked perfect—but Satan was spreading his poison in her life."

Maureen sighed. "I guess you're right, Mom," she said.

"Appearances can deceive us," Mom said. "Things can look good to us when they're really not good at all—and people can, too. On the other hand, someone who is not attractive may be a fine person. We need to try to see what people are really like and not judge by appearance."

**HOW ABOUT YOU?**

Are you careful not to judge kids by what they wear or how many things they have? By whether they're smart or good-looking? Get to know them—see if they're honest, if they're kind, and if they obey their parents. Find out if they love God. He doesn't judge by appearance, and he doesn't want you to do that, either.

**APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING**

**Scripture Memory Verse:**

**"Stop judging by mere appearance."**

**John 7:24**