

More than Meets the Eye

“Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad.”

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

The Poet of an earlier century recognized that there is always more than meets the eye when we pass those on the street.

Some see a man who is angry and ill-tempered but in looking closer there is a man whose dreams have been shattered on the rocks of reality.

Some will see a person who is withdrawn, sullen and quiet and in taken a second glance there is only a person who is hurting and broken.

We pass by those who are rushing from place to place seeming too busy to spare the time of day but when you examine their lives they are simply trying to keep occupied so that the tears of brokenness won't begin to fall.

There are those who engage their world but seem aloof, not intimate, not open but their hearts have been opened but have been damaged, abused, forgotten and neglected.

The reality of people's hearts and lives are so much more than can be seen with the eye and heard with the ear. There is more to people's story than you can observe with your senses.

Longfellow, the poet of an earlier century, really did have it right. There is more than meets the eye; more to the person that we can see (or perhaps even imagine).

When you pass by the person in the store, and their eyes are darting about -
or you glance across the table and see you spouse wrapped in a moment of silence -
or you speak of word of greeting and the person passes by with barely a grumble -
or you see your friend in the hallways of the church and they seem to rush past -

Remember, there is always more to the story...there is always more than meets the eye.

And when you remember...voice a little prayer for the one you have just seen.

