Date: 1/13/2018

Title: Two Boxes; Different Contents

Theme: God is looking for beauty within, not on the surface.

Object: Two boxes, one beautiful on the outside but empty; the other plain on the outside but filled with good things.

Text: 1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV) 3Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

This verse tells us something about people and something about God.

It tells us there are a lot of people who spend a lot of time and money trying to make themselves look beautiful so other people will think they’re great.

But God is interested in what kind of people we are on the inside, not what we look like on the outside.

What are some of the ways that people try to make themselves look beautiful?

Girls put on a lot of makeup and jewelry and get a fancy hairdo and buy really expensive clothes with designer labels that everyone can see.

And boys put gel in their hair and go to the gym to get muscles and get a tattoo and wear their Under Armor muscle shirt to impress the girls.

They hide behind all these things and think they’re really beautiful people, but do they fool God?

Does God think they’re beautiful? No.

The Bible says that God looks on the heart.

He is interested in what kind of people they are, not what they look like.

The Bible says we should not put things on just to impress other people.

Well I brought some things in the bag this morning that I hope will help us understand this.

I have here two boxes: one is a beautiful gift box, and the other is a plain old cardboard box.

Let’s first look at the beautiful box.

Somebody spent a lot of time making this box beautiful.

It has a beautiful vinyl covering with beautiful flowers and this beautiful handle on top to open it up.

What do you think is inside? It must be beautiful. Let’s open it and see what’s inside. [Empty]

You know kids, there are a lot of people who are like this beautiful box.

They spend a lot of time making themselves look beautiful with makeup and jewelry and fancy clothes.

But on the inside, they’re empty.

When God looks for something beautiful on the inside, He doesn’t find it.

Now let’s look at the plain box.

Nobody spent any time making the outside of this box look nice. It’s just plain and ordinary.

But maybe we can find some inner beauty in this box. Should we take a look?

Wow!! Look at this!! Hersey chocolate kisses with almonds in them! Do you think these taste sweet?

When God looks at your heart, He wants to see that you’re sweet and kind and gentle and patient and forgiving and loving to others.

What else? A candle? What can we do with a candle? [We can light it so it can shine bright.]

God wants you to be a light for Jesus.

When He looks at your heart, He wants to see someone who obeys His commandments and does what is right and loves God and other people.

We have one more thing in the plain box: What is this? [The Bible]

When God looks at your heart, He wants to see that you are building your life on the truth of God’s word, the Bible, and that you’re trusting in Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

Which box do you want to be? The empty box or the box full of all the good things God wants to see on the inside?

Let’s ask God to help us be beautiful in the inside for Him.