



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **BEAUTY IS ONLY . . .**

The Miss Universe beauty pageant was founded in 1952 by the California clothing company Pacific Mills. The logo of the competition—a woman pointing to the stars— is intended to represent the beauty and responsibility of women across the Universe.

At the 2015 pageant last month, master of ceremonies Steve Harvey committed a distressing gaffe. After announcing Miss Colombia as the winner, Harvey corrected himself and awarded Miss Philippines first place honors. Later, Miss Colombia spoke with caustic disappointment. She thought she had won, only to have the crown literally taken from her head.

### **. . . SKIN DEEP?**

The beauty contest in Song of Songs (Song of Solomon) is of a different sort. The shepherd girl to whom the song is addressed must choose the winner. Will she be swayed by the affections of the rich and powerful King Solomon? Or will she choose to marry her boyfriend from her home village?

1. How does Miss Colombia's pained outburst factor into your overall evaluation of her beauty? In what ways might her response reveal some invisible characteristics of this woman?
2. Imagine yourself as one receiving the types of compliments Solomon gives the woman in the text. (Think in terms of modern metaphors as opposed to ancient agricultural language.) What would you find alluring about receiving such recognition from a relative stranger?
3. Now try to imagine some ways the woman's boyfriend of long standing might have described her. How might his compliments compared and contrasted to those of Solomon, who knew the woman only superficially?
4. In concluding verses of this book that are not included in today's text (see 8:4, 8, 9), the question is raised as to how adults should teach children about love and marriage. How can Christian adults effectively help our young people evaluate the true beauty of another person?

—Charles R. Boatman

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