

Reflections with Sharon

Everyone has issues

Read Psalm 103:13-18

Once upon a time, if for some reason or other, I found that I couldn't be at a function that I had really set my mind on attending, I absolutely hated it afterward if someone told me what a great time I had missed. Somehow, it always seems as if the meeting we missed was the most informative, the party we could not attend was the coolest, the person we never got to meet was the nicest and the event we skipped was simply the bomb!!

Notice how if we're short, we want to be tall; if we're fat, we want to be thin; if we have straight hair, we want to have curly hair, if we're single, we want to be married; if we're inside, we want to be outside; if it is raining, we want it to be sunny; if we're young, we wish we were older; if we're dying, we wish we could live; and vice versa! Somehow whatever is out of our grasp always seems more attractive than what is within our reach.

Perhaps if people were generally more transparent and a bit more honest with others about what's really going on in their lives, then our wish lists would begin to shrink while our contentment lists would grow noticeably longer.

Just imagine, behind that neighbor's flashy smile may be a son addicted to drugs; your flamboyant colleague may be battling a secret addiction; the handsome couple may have a retarded child; the successful looking businessman may be drowning in debt; that woman who seems to have it altogether may be on the verge of a nervous breakdown; your seemingly happily married friends may be getting a divorce; your wealthy relative may have a terminal disease; your brilliant sister may have married a blockhead!

The grim reality of our deranged world is that we all have insecurities and fears – some more so than others, but the bottom line is that we all have issues! There are those who handle their problems better than others, some have learnt coping skills and mechanisms; but even when it appears that some were born with a silver spoon in their mouth, we all have stuff to deal with.

All of us know what it's like to greatly admire, from a distance, someone we barely know. We idolize people and place them on a pedestal, little realizing how distorted our perception is until we get the opportunity to really begin to know that person. How quickly our enchantment fades as we discover the humanness in the other person and realize that they too have issues! They have their fair share of problems and peculiarities, flaws and weaknesses, ups and downs just like everyone else.

Once we understand that no matter how we perceive another's lot, people are people, and to some extent everyone deals with his own struggles, we suddenly realize that we're not so badly off at all. That's why we have to let go and trust God with our lives

because it's the only way to achieve that balance that makes us feel whole and beautiful notwithstanding our issues.