

BEAUTY FROM WITHIN

There is an old story about two trees that stood at the edge of the barnyard, one an apple tree and the other an evergreen tree.

One day the farmer and his son walked by and seeing the evergreen, the farmer said, "That evergreen tree will make a good Christmas tree this winter."

When the two had gone on their way, the evergreen turned to the apple tree and said, "Did you hear what he said? I am going to be a Christmas tree. Think how beautiful I will be: And look how dull you are."

The apple tree hung her head for a moment, and then looking up at her fruit-laden boughs said, "Yes, you will indeed be beautiful. People will hang tinsel from you and drape lights upon you and surround you with attractively wrapped packages.

But, I, too, have a kind of beauty. In the spring, I bear lovely blossoms, Then in the fall my branches bear delicious fruit that makes people happy all winter long. You are made beautiful from the outside by what people do for you.

"My beauty comes from within."