

# HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of  
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

**Sunday, March 9, 2008**

**Scripture Reading: John 11:1-45**

**TODAY'S THOUGHT: One can acquire everything in solitude except character. —Marie Henri Beyle (1783-1842)**

There's a hot new jewelry craze. Women, even some men, are wearing diamond rings. But they're not flashing brilliant cut diamonds — diamonds that have been polished and shaped with scores of different facets. They're dropping rough, uncut stones into settings, and slipping the odd-looking rings on their fingers. Sounds strange, but it's true. That stone your granddaughter gets for her engagement ring may well be — a stone!

Stores like Tiffany's and DeBeers are finding customers who will pay in the tens of thousands to have a piece of gravel set in a ring or a necklace. It's an uncut diamond to be sure, but it doesn't look like much.

It's an odd story, but it points to a wonderful truth. God has placed us in a setting, too. Some day, perhaps, our lives will glitter just like a beautiful polished diamond. But right now, perhaps we look more like a stone than a diamond.

It's probably not fair to suggest that we're either a stone or a diamond — one or the other. It's closer to the truth to say that expressing the brilliant likeness of Christ is a process. It doesn't happen overnight.

We all know people who just shine like a diamond on black velvet! But let us not get discouraged if we think our lives seem a bit rough. God is not finished with us yet. The polishing still continues.

The good news is that we are being fashioned into a brightness like his glorious brightness. And that's something that people anywhere will be able to see.

**Prayer: O God, thank You for accepting me as I am, but at the same time encouraging me to be more than I am. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Leviticus 20-23  
**Monday:** Leviticus 24-27  
**Tuesday:** Mark 1-3  
**Wednesday:** Mark 4-6  
**Thursday:** Mark 7-10  
**Friday:** Mark 11-13  
**Saturday:** Psalms 25-28



# As I Was Sayin' ...

**Directions:** Match the quotation with the person who said it. Write the number of the correct quotation in the circle beside each person's name.

- |  |                       |                            |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. "I have a dream ..."  | <input type="radio"/> | Yogi Berra                 |
| 2. "Give me liberty or give me death."   | <input type="radio"/> | Benjamin Franklin          |
| 3. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."  | <input type="radio"/> | Albert Einstein            |
| 4. "Three may keep a secret, if two are dead."   | <input type="radio"/> | Abraham Lincoln            |
| 5. "It ain't over 'til it's over."   | <input type="radio"/> | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. |
| 6. "It has been my experience that people who have few vices have very few virtues."                                   | <input type="radio"/> | John F. Kennedy            |
| 7. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."                                   | <input type="radio"/> | Patrick Henry              |
| 8. "I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right." | <input type="radio"/> | Neil Armstrong             |

**Answers:** 1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 2. Patrick Henry, 3. Neil Armstrong, 4. Benjamin Franklin, 5. Yogi Berra, 6. Abraham Lincoln, 7. John F. Kennedy, 8. Albert Einstein