

God's Mirror

James 1:21-25

1

About Mirrors

- In ancient times
 - Polished obsidian
 - Polished metal
 - I Corinthians 13:12 – “For now we see in a mirror dimly”
- Later
 - 17th century – Start using glass coated with reflective metal (i.e. – silver)
- That’s what we use today (coated with aluminum)

2

Why Do We Use Mirrors?

- Check our appearance
- Drive
- Investigation/inspection
- Research instruments
- Telescopes

3

How Do You Use God's Mirror?

Do you remember what you see?

- **Yes** ... If you put away sin
 - Verse 21 – “... put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness ...”
- **Yes** ... If you hear and obey
 - Verses 22, 25 – “... be doers of the word ... a doer who acts”
- **No** ... If you don't correct what is needed
 - Verses 23-24 – “... forgets what he was like”
- **No** ... If you're looking at others and not at yourself – A mirror doesn't show another's face
 - cf. I Peter 4:15 – “... a meddler in other men's matters”

4

Two Examples

Paul (I Timothy 1:12-16)

- **Before conversion** ...
 - Conscientious
 - Acts 23:1 – “... in all good conscience ...”
 - He had great zeal but without knowledge
 - Acts 26:9 – “I myself was convinced ...”
 - Galatians 1:13-14 – “so extremely zealous was I ...”
 - Philippians 3:4-7 – “... confidence in the flesh ...”
 - He was a sinner
 - I Timothy 1:15 – “... sinners, of whom I am the foremost”
 - cf. Acts 22:16 – “... wash away your sins”

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Two Examples

Paul (I Timothy 1:12-16)

- **After conversion** ...
 - Obedient
 - Acts 26:19-20 – “I was not disobedient ...”
 - He now lived by faith
 - Galatians 2:20 – “... I live by faith in the Son of God”
 - He chose heavenly values and goals
 - Philippians 3:7-11 – “... by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead”
 - He went the distance
 - II Timothy 4:6-8 – “I have fought the good fight”

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Two Examples

Felix (Acts 24:22-27)

- **Forgot what he saw ...**
 - He had knowledge of The Way
 - Verse 22 – “a rather accurate knowledge ...”
 - He heard the gospel
 - Verses 24-26 – “... heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus ... he sent for him often ...”
 - He refused to obey
 - Verses 25-27 – “Go away for the present”

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What Do You See In God’s Mirror?

Do you look like Paul?

- **Learn and admit your sin**
 - Matthew 11:29 – “... learn from me”
 - cf. Mark 9:24 – “help my unbelief”
- **Continue to do a self-inspection**
 - II Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves ... Test yourselves”
- **Constantly use God’s Word**
 - I Corinthians 2:12-16 – “The spiritual person judges all things”
 - II Timothy 3:16-17 – “equipped for every good work”
 - Hebrews 4:12 – “... the word of God is living ...”

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What Do You See In God’s Mirror?

Or do you look like Felix?

- **You hear the truth and are frightened by it**
 - Romans 2:5-6 – “... you are storing up wrath for yourself ...”
- **You have other motives and concerns**
 - Mark 4:18-19 – “... enter in and choke the word”
 - Acts 24:26 – “... he hoped that money would be given him by Paul”
- **Attempt to use the Bible to justify your sin**
 - II Peter 3:15-16 – “... twist to their own destruction”

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God’s Mirror

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (John 13:15-17)

“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:25)

10

What God Wants You To Do

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

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What God Wants You To Do

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”

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