

Four Mirrors
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Introduction: In what direction are we heading?

- A. We tend to be creatures of habit and comfort. When we follow Jesus all of that changes! (Lk 9:23-24, 59-62)
1. There are God-given relationships that can build and nurture our faith and our character. Even these relationships cannot be put above following Jesus!
 2. Times will come in our lives where sudden changes occur. What do we do?
- B. God showed Israel how to respond to a completely new environment. (Josh 3:3-4)
1. What do we do when it can be said of our life “you have not passed this way before?” We should be humbled and even have a measure of discomfort!
 2. It is in this situation where our faith and God’s grace can give guidance and strength! (Eph 2:8; 2 Cor 12:9-10)
 3. God’s grace will give us mirrors to help us know the right path to take!

I. The mirror of God’s word

- A. This is a powerful mirror for the one who wishes to see.
1. A mature faith will quickly turn to God’s word for comfort and guidance! The move from home to college may be the first steps in making faith your own!
 2. When we are changed by God’s grace to trust Him then real understanding will follow! (Mt 13:15-16)
 3. Why did the apostles see but others could not? They really wanted to understand God’s word. (Jn 5:44-47; Mt 5:6)
 4. Be wise when you hear complaints about preaching and teaching. Worldly people will never appreciate proper teaching. (1 Jn 4:5-6)
- B. What does this mirror tell us about serious readers? (James 1:22-25)
1. You really want to change. What would one do if he does not want to change?
 2. After understanding you then work towards remembering and applying over a period of time.
 3. What does this mirror say about our interest in changing? Are we teachable?

II. The mirror of our memory

- A. If we know God we look at the past with great gratitude for God’s grace. (Eph 2:11-13)
1. We, of all people, can see the hopelessness of living without God.
 2. As the Israelites observed the Passover and remembered, so should we completely identify our past with the deliverance in the cross of Christ!
- B. How we view the past will determine how we view ourselves.
1. The memory of our conversion and forgiveness will give us a power and a confidence to live. (1 Tim 1:12-15; Gal 2:20)
 2. Here is where some struggle. Their conversion does not release them from their past.

- C. Consider the OT character Shimei, of the house of King Saul.
1. This man identified himself with his family and *all the views they held*.
 2. 20 Years after Saul's death, Shimei shows his heart to everyone. How sad for a man to *let his past mold him this way!* **(2 Sam 16:7-8, 13)**
 3. A bitter past brings *a depressed and angry life*. **(1 Jn 2:9-11)**

III. The mirror of our relationships

- A. You can definitely see your spiritual direction *by your relationships*.
1. The Psalmist clearly showed *the progression away from God*. **(Ps 1:1-2)**
 2. Paul knew he had brethren that would stand with him! **(Acts 18:9-11)**
 3. I am speaking of relationships where we depend on others and let our guard down around others. The next few weeks *are crucial to our students!*
 4. Our relationships will change over time. *How are they changing?*
- B. Are *you moving away or towards* zealous, faithful Christians?
1. You can move to those in the world or even “worldly” Christians, both will work against your spiritual life. **(Prov 13:20)**
 2. Some have what is called a “toxic faith.” They are scoffers and *will pull you into a pool of poison*. **(1 Cor 15:33)**
 3. When you are *drifting doctrinally* this also happens. **(Gal 4:16-17)**
 4. What *a blessing to have “crazy” friends* that love to talk about the word of God and of saving souls! **(Ps 119:63; Mal 3:16-18)**
 6. You friends or lack of friends is a mirror to who you are. *What do you see?*

IV. The mirror of our tongue

- A. Jesus told us that our tongues *will show what is in our hearts*. **(Mk 7:21-23)**
1. What do we *love to talk about?*
 2. Relationships are determined *by what we are most interested in*. You want to share what is in your heart with another who will also value what you value.
- B. How *we think and act towards others* is a powerful mirror.
1. Consider *our attitudes* toward brethren and towards the world. **(James 2:13)**
 2. Jesus was a servant *looking to the needs of others*. Do we complain because brethren are not serving us? **(Rom 15:1-2)**
- C. Is your tongue *filled with praise and thanksgiving?*
1. A great way to move back to God is seeing Him and *being filled with praise*. **(Col 2:6-7)**
 2. You will also *love to speak well of your brother in Christ*. You want to build them up! **(Eph 4:29-32)**
 3. Are *others reflecting our attitudes* towards them? Think about this.

Conclusion: Always be thankful when you can see where you are and that you know God will help!