

Man in the Mirror

OK...Why the Man in the Mirror?

Well...in recent months it seems that our small ecclesia has been using songs as a catalyst in coming up with ideas for some most notable Bible studies. So I got to thinking and one song came to mind: "Man in the Mirror." Man in the Mirror by the infamous Michael Jackson. For those of you not familiar with the song and or the lyrics, not to worry. If you do know the song, you would likely think that this study would talk about repentance...making a change...being able to see yourself in a new light. Now to be clear, if you're reading through this study, hopefully you've already more than likely repented (changed) and are now trying to live your life more righteously. More on that topic shortly...

However, the principle focus to this study does not feature glittery gloves, moonwalks or change in itself, but image...your image. It's the reflection of you that's seen when looking into a mirror. More simply, embracing the way you always see yourself and the way other people see you!

*Your image! We all have heard it – God created **all of us** in His image. From the beginning...*

Genesis 1:26~27:

1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

As when looking into a mirror, it's the reflection of yourself that represents your appearance. It's similar to looking at a long tree line running the length of a still 'glass-like' lake – you see the trees and all the colors while simultaneously seeing the same image being reflected on the water.

This beauty is exemplified in 2 Corinthians:

2Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This single verse holds the key to seeing the Man in the Mirror...

First, let's pick apart a few of the words:

Glass – Strong's 2734. *katoptrizomai* kat-op-trid'-zom-ahee; middle voice from a compound of 2596 and a derivative of 3700 (compare 2072); to mirror oneself, i.e. to see reflected (figuratively):--behold as in a glass.

Glory – Strong's 1391. *doxa dox'-ah* from the base of 1380; glory (as very apparent), in a wide application (literal or figurative, objective or subjective):--dignity, glory(-ious), honour, praise, worship.

And *Image* – Strong's 1504. *eikwn eikon, i-kone'* from 1503; a likeness, i.e. (literally) statue, profile, or (figuratively) representation, resemblance:--image.

Paul's verse states that all people are able to reflect the apparent image of our Lord. You should be seen in His likeness and be a clear glass-like representation of Him.

Remember the lake's reflection?

1 Corinthians 13:12

13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

When you first look at the tree line, you see only the real trees but as you look deeper, you see the flawless mirror like reflection. The same goes for the Man in the Mirror. At first you only see your external appearance. What you should also see is the Spirit of the Lord...His spirit. In you! You've repented, been baptized and received His holy spirit. "Face to face" - Can you see it? Can others see it?

Colossians 3:10 states:

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

And in Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

What you're shooting for here is to always see that new man – to see His spirit in you! Let's see what God told Samuel about this:

1 Samuel 16:7

16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Your heart is like the reflection on the lake...although not seen immediately, but with the right light and good focus, it's not really hard to see at all! In fact in time, should become your most prominent feature!

Appearance has very broad meaning:

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Almost all of us live two lives: what people see on the outside and what is really going on the inside. In school we learn what outward signs of attention will please the teacher. At a job we learn to “put up a good front” whenever the boss happens to stroll by. As if putting on masks, we style our hair, choose our clothes, and use body language to impress those around us. Over time, we learn to excel at hiding truly serious problems.

In Yahshua’s day, religious people tried to impress each other with showy outward behavior. They wore gaunt and hungry looks during a brief fast, prayed grandiosely if people were watching, and went so far as to wear Bible verses strapped to their foreheads and left arms.

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Yahshua blasts the hypocrisy behind what the world perceives as seemingly harmless practices. Take note: God is not fooled by appearances. We cannot fake behavior to impress Him. He knows that inside the best of us lurk dark thoughts of hatred, pride, and lust – internal problems only He can deal with. Yahshua goes on to present a truly radical way of life, free of pretense representing the exact reflection we’re looking to find in the Man in the Mirror.

1 Peter 3: 3~4

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

God sees everything – even all the things you do secretly:

Matthew 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Yes, clothes are important and wearing fine clothes is nice but the clothes you notice on the Man in the Mirror should be made of something else! What to put on?

Colossians 3:12

3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering...

Unfortunately these types of items never go on sale at Penny’s or Nordstrom’s... You must wear compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. These things make for a beautiful reflection...for the Man in the Mirror.

I do hope you see where we’re going here: You must strive to be Christ-like! You have to know just how important it is to have Yahshua living in you—for without that you have nothing. Let’s turn to the Gospel of John to get a better perspective:

John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

John 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

What exactly is Christ-like?

Colossians 3:5~10

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Did you get that? – After the Image of Him that created him.

And now in Ephesians 4:1~6, 32

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

In the Book of James chapter 2:14~24

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;

notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Book of Romans 12:1~2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

And in Yahshua's own words, of utmost importance from the Gospel of Matthew 7:21~23:

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

And back to the Book of James 1:21~23:

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass...

That face in a glass – The Man in the Mirror, taken from the NKJV

James 1:21~25

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;
24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.
25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

In closing, I hope you will seek His face when looking at the Man in the Mirror.

2Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

*So – Get out your Windex and polishing cloths!
Every time you look at the Man in the Mirror – Look close and deep!
We pray you will always see Yahshua!! Selah*

All Scriptures KJV unless otherwise noted

*A new addition to our monthly “Walk of Faith” will be titled: **A Proverb to Ponder***

Proverbs 27:19

As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.

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