

Mirror, Mirror: Seeing Yourself Clearly in Scripture

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- I. What do you see when you look into the mirror?
 - a. What are the best and most accurate descriptors for your life?
 - b. How do you make sense of the complexity of your life?
 - c. Scripture functions like a mirror for our lives
 - i. We see the face of a saint, sufferer, and sinner
 - ii. Two big questions
 1. Who am I?
 2. How do I deal with evil?
 - a. Evil from without (suffering)
 - b. Evil from within (sin)
 3. “All that God disclosed of himself has come in response to the practical religious needs of his people as these emerged in the course of history.” (Geerhardus Vos)
- II. Saints
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 - i. 1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge-- 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you-- 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - ii. Paul affirms their identity in Christ and the good fruit he sees

- b. Implications for the way we view ourselves and others
 - i. This foundational identity trumps everything else
 - ii. We notice the good in our lives and in the lives of others. We observe and celebrate where the Spirit is at work.

III. Sufferers

- a. The overall pattern in Scripture: “For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help” (Psalm 22:24).
- b. Exodus 3:7-8a
 - i. “Then the LORD said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians. . .’”
 - ii. This is the story of redemption
- c. Implications for ourselves and others
 - i. We don’t shy away from the reality of suffering or try to minimize it
 - ii. Cry out to God for help because he hears
 - iii. What about when our suffering is caused by our sinful choices?

IV. Sinners

- a. “Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves...” (Book of Common Prayer)

- b. Jeremiah 2:13—“My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”
- c. Matthew 6:21—“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- d. Implications for ourselves and others

V. Conclusion

- a. “I would not give a fig for the simplicity this side of complexity, but I would give my life for the simplicity on the other side of complexity.” (Oliver Wendell Holmes)
- b. We are now more primed to engage with the Bible
 - i. As saints, we expect that Scripture will confirm our foundational identity as his children.
 - ii. As sufferers, we expect that Scripture will comfort and console in ways that are specifically tailored to our suffering.
 - iii. As sinners, we expect that Scripture will challenge and convict us of the ways we are living contrary to his design.