



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

Aug 13, 2023

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Mirror, Mirror On the Wall

The story is told of a missionary who once visited a very primitive tribe of people. These people had very little contact with the outside world, and they were totally unfamiliar with many things we take for granted. One of the things they had never before seen was a mirror. The only way they knew what they looked like was the very poor reflection one can sometimes see in the water. One day, the missionary hung a mirror on a tree. The tribe's chief happened to walk past the mirror, so he stopped, stood there, and looked at it for quite some time. Then he walked directly to the missionary and asked him to explain. The missionary explained what a mirror was and that it was a reflection of what he looked like. The chief promptly walked back to the mirror, took it off the tree, and smashed it on the ground. The missionary asked him why he broke the mirror to which the chief replied, "*Because the face that was being reflected was ugly.*"

When I heard that story, I couldn't help but think that in spite of all our sophistication, we still behave quite primitively at times. God's word functions as a mirror to our soul. We can look at it and learn exactly what we look like to God and others. Sometimes, the reflection is not very flattering. So we're left with a choice. Do we try to destroy the mirror? Do we refuse to look in the mirror again? Or do we do what we can to improve the way we look? I know what the tribal chief did, but what do you do? Give it some thought.

"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; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 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" (James 1:23-25).

Steve Higginbotham
Karnes church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

What a terrible Day?

Today, I had a terrible day. Everyone was against me. Some days, I get so frustrated with people. Sometimes I wish I didn't have to deal with people at all. They can be so unreasonable. Today was one of those days.

Today was "*trash day*." I took out our trash the night before, but when I pulled out of our driveway, I noticed that our grouchy neighbor had thrown a piece of his trash in our yard, close to our trash can! (*But he didn't. The wind blew it over*).

After dropping the children off at school, I needed to make a left-hand turn into a long line of traffic. I saw one of my friends in line and thought she would let me out in front of her. She saw me, but wouldn't let me out. Some friend she is! (*But she didn't see you. She was miles away in her own thoughts*).

At work, two people in the office were talking, and right after I walked by, they both started laughing. I know they were making fun of me. (*But they weren't. They were laughing at a funny story*).

The cashier at lunch shorted me almost a dollar in change. See if I ever go back there. They tried to cheat me. (*But they didn't. It was an honest mistake*).

I tried to call a close friend today and talk, but she refused to answer her phone. She was dodging my call. (*But he she wasn't. Her battery needed recharging*).

I was running late for Wednesday Bible study, and didn't sit where I usually sit. Instead, I had to ask a person to slide down the pew just a little to make room for me. She slid, but it wasn't 30 seconds till she got up and left because I made her mad by asking her to move. (*But you didn't. She wasn't feeling well, and decided she needed to leave*).

After returning home from church, I crashed on the couch due to my rough day, but my husband started washing a huge stack of dishes. That's his passive aggressive way of saying, "You're not a very good housekeeper." (*But it wasn't. It was an act of love*).

You know, there's a reason why God tells us not to judge one another's motives (**Matthew 7:1-2**), because we're not very good at it at all! I wonder how many terrible days are just ordinary days that we made terrible by our attitudes and false judgments? Give it some thought.

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