



Bethel South Sermon Notes- *Mirror of the Master*

Speaker: Pastor Mike

Date: September 7, 2025

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 3:18, James 1:23, Hebrews 10:22, 1 John 1:7, Hebrews 9:14, Romans 8:29, James 1:23, John 13:35, Acts 16, Galatians 5:22, Matthew 5:14, John 15:5

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

A disciple is a devoted follower of Jesus, continually being transformed by the Holy Spirit to reflect God's love and character, actively engaged in His mission, making disciples of all nations through the power of the gospel. —Bethel Church

Main Theme

2 Corinthians 3:18 – *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

Key Points

1. God's Goal: Not Just to Save Us, but to Shape Us

- Salvation is the *starting line*, not the finish line.
- Romans 8:29 – We are predestined to be *conformed to the image of Christ*.
- A disciple's life is about reflecting Jesus, not self, culture, or circumstances.
- Max Lucado: *“God loves us as we are, but too much to leave us that way.”*

2. Reflecting God's Love Changes the Atmosphere

- Sin/selfishness smudges the “mirror,” but the blood of Jesus cleanses us.
- Daily repentance = keeping the mirror clear.
- Gratitude resets our perspective and allows love to flow.
- Acts 16: Paul & Silas sang in prison → chains broke, lives were changed.
- Gratefulness and love shift the atmosphere wherever we are.

3. Reflecting God's Character is Countercultural

- Galatians 5:22-23 – Fruit of the Spirit stands opposite to worldly values.
- Culture: revenge, self-promotion, highlight reels.
- Christ: humility, forgiveness, self-control, sacrificial love.
- The darker the world, the brighter Christ's light shines through us (Matt. 5:14-16).

- Trials form character; we reflect Christ most in how we endure difficulty.

4. We Reflect Best When We Stay Close to the Source

- A mirror in the dark reflects nothing—it needs light.
- John 15:5 – Abiding in Christ is the only way to bear fruit.
- Sin and secrecy create distance; confession brings healing and freedom.
- Daily rhythms of prayer, Scripture, gratitude, and worship keep us aligned.
- What we *behold* is what we *become*.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon emphasized gratitude as a reset for the soul. When was the last time gratitude shifted your attitude or atmosphere?
2. Reflecting Christ is countercultural. Where do you feel most pressure to reflect culture instead of Christ? How do you fight it?
3. The sermon taught that “what you behold, you become.” What are you beholding most right now (media, stress, Jesus, Scripture)? How is it shaping you?
4. Staying close to Jesus keeps our reflection clear. What daily practice helps you stay connected to the source? What new habit could you add?
5. Think about those closest to you (family, coworkers, friends). What image do you think they see reflected in you most often? How would you like that to change?