

**SERIES: THE OTHER SIX DAYS**  
**SERMON: IMAGE BEARERS**  
**5-22-22**

**OPENER:**

***Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.***

**JESUS DESCRIBES WHAT WE ARE IN THIS PASSAGE - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, NOT THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH. THIS MEANS WE HAVE TO GET BEYOND THE CHURCH WALLS AND TAKE THE LIGHT OUT TO THE WORLD.**

**We say, “Let others see Jesus in me.”**

- > But are we really reflecting Christ to those we come in contact with?**
- > Do others see Jesus in you at work, at school, at home, in the community?**
- > If Jesus were to return right now would you be ashamed of what you are doing currently at this very moment? If your answer is yes I suggest you make the choice to do things differently.**

**If we live our lives in a way that doesn't reflect what we claim to be, others will see no reason to give their lives to Jesus.**

**God takes us as ordinary people and uses us to share His message to others. When we live out our faith, we spread His light. Don't hide your testimony or be ashamed to take your Bible to work. Don't be afraid to pray over your lunch at school or in public. Let others see that you love the Lord. You were saved to shine!**

**I. WE ARE IMAGE BEARERS**

***Genesis 1:27 (NLT) So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.***

**The Bible describes us as God's image bearers. Basically, what this means is that we were created to reflect God's nature and character to the rest of creation.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**On a wall near the main entrance to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, is a portrait with the following inscription: “James Butler Bonham—no picture of him exists.**

This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom.”

**NO LITERAL PORTRAIT OF JESUS EXISTS EITHER.  
BUT THE LIKENESS OF JESUS WHO MAKES US FREE  
CAN BE SEEN IN THE LIVES OF HIS TRUE FOLLOWERS.**

**SO I ASK YOU, CAN OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU?**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**What Do You Reflect?**

My granddaughter, Hazel reflecting her mother, Courtney. Most of us have seen this, I am sure, have seen this with our children. But children only begin what we continue to do as adults. We imitate. We reflect, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously.

Or we can think back to junior high, high school or even college when we were in a group and to one degree or another, whether consciously or unconsciously, we reflected and resembled that peer group. Members of the group may have dressed a certain way. Others may have been in a group that was very athletic, and so to be accepted in the group the new kid had to pursue athletics. And still others, unfortunately, ran with a crowd in which they felt they had to use drugs or participate in other harmful activities.

All of us reflect what we are around. We reflect things in our culture and our society, sometimes consciously and sometimes subtly and unconsciously.

**WHAT DO YOU REFLECT?  
AT THE CORE OF OUR BEINGS WE ARE IMAGING CREATURES.  
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE NEUTRAL ON THIS ISSUE.**

**WE EITHER REFLECT THE CREATOR OR  
SOMETHING IN CREATION.**

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*

**AS WE GET OUR LIVES RIGHT WITH GOD AND SURRENDER TO HIM TO BE  
FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT, THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US INTO  
HIS IMAGE.**

**AS WE BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS WE REFLECT HIM GLORIOUS  
IMAGE.**

**II. WHATEVER YOUR EYES ARE SET ON IS THE IMAGE YOU WILL REFLECT**

***Matthew 6:22-23 (NLT) Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!***

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**We are like a mirror. We will bear whatever image is in front of us. When God's glory and light shines on us, we reflect out that glory and light to others.**

**Money**

**Drugs**

**Phone (Images of the world)**

**Another person**

**The Word of God**

**WHATEVER YOU SET YOUR EYES ON IS WHAT YOU WILL REFLECT.**

**WHATEVER YOU ARE SEEKING IS THE IMAGE YOU WILL BECOME.**

**IF YOUR EYES ARE SET ON DARKNESS THAN THAT DARKNESS WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOU.**

**IF YOUR EYES ON SET ON THE LIGHT AND GLORY OF CHRIST THEN HIS LIGHT WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOU.**

**3. TO LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IS TO BE RADICALLY CHANGED**

***2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!***

**YOU CANNOT SAY YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN AND LIVE THE SAME AS YOU DID BEFORE SALVATION.**

**Becoming a disciple of Christ means turning away from your sin and turning towards God in obedience and surrender. It is NOT saying, God "I Repent, Forgive Me" and then going back to the same old lifestyle.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**A dirty mirror has difficulty reflecting an image. Just like a dirty life cannot reflect the image of Christ.**

**GOD CHANGES YOUR LIFE DRASTICALLY AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR SURRENDER.**

**To be radically changed is to have.....**

Change of heart  
Change of habits  
Change of desires  
Change of goals  
Change of direction

**TRUE SURRENDER IS NOT STRADDLING THE FENCE WITH ONE FOOT IN CHRIST AND ONE FOOT IN THE WORLD.**

*Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

**WE ARE NOT TO BE A COPY OF THE WORLD, BUT  
A COPY OF CHRIST.**

If we conform to this world those around us those we are trying to lead to Jesus will assume we're no different than they are so why should they come Jesus?

#### **4. TO LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IS TO LET JESUS LIVE THROUGH YOU**

*Galatians 2:20 (NLT) My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**OTHERS WILL NOT SEE JESUS IF YOU ARE IN THE WAY.**

**CHRIST CANNOT LIVE THROUGH YOU UNTIL YOU FIRST DIE TO YOURSELF.**

#### **CLOSING:**

#### **HOW DO WE LET OTHERS SEE JESUS**

1. Through our words and our actions
2. What we do for entertainment
  - Where do you go?
  - What do you watch?
  - What kind of music do you listen to?
  - Would you go to the same places, watch the same things or listen to the same music if Jesus were sitting next to you or find yourself being embarrassed?
3. Our Social Media

**Other people read what you post on social media. Non-believers watch more closely than those who say they are Christians. Are your posts, comments, and photos edifying what you say you believe in?**

**Once something goes online, it can't be taken back so You and I must be careful that we represent our Savior in the best way.**

#### **4. How We Treat Others**

- **Are we reaching out to help people in their time of need?**
- **Are we encouraging or criticizing them?**
- **Being patient and kind?**
- **What about showing genuine Love?**
- **Are we giving others the benefit of the doubt or do we believe something because someone else takes it as truth?**
- **If we hear gossip about an individual, do we distance ourselves from it or stay and listen? What does the bible say about gossip?**
- **Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.**