**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | God’s Word as a Mirror |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | James 1:22-25 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #5490 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. James 1:22-25
      1. “Beholding his natural face in a glass” refers to someone looking at their physical features in a mirror.
      2. “Perfect law of liberty” is symbolism for the Word of God.
   2. Jeremiah said the Word of God is like a hammer.
      1. Jeremiah 23:29
   3. David said the Word of God is a lamp.
      1. Psalm 119:105
   4. Hebrews says the Word of God is a sharp sword.
      1. Hebrews 4:12
   5. Jesus said the Word of God is a seed.
      1. Luke 8:11
   6. James said the Word of God is like a mirror.
      1. James 1:25
2. because the word of god is a mirror, i see myself reflected
   1. Not only do we read the Bible, the Bible will read us.
      1. The Bible has a picture of me.
         1. If I want to see me, I just simply look into the Word of God.
   2. A mirror does not lie.
      1. But a mirror can be very brutal.
      2. Photographers can manipulate an image to make beauty appear.
         1. “When there’s beauty, we take it; where there’s none, we make it.”
   3. One man takes a casual glance
      1. James 1:23
         1. “Beholding” refers to a person who just glances into the Word of God.
            1. Someone who is in a hurry.
            2. He runs past the mirror and quickly forgets what he sees.
            3. Similar to looking at your watch and forgetting the time.
         2. Many morning devotions are mere glances.
            1. Open the Bible and glance in it.

“I have done my duty.”

* + 1. We do not pause because we do not really want to see.
       1. A gnat bounces all over the place.
       2. A honeybee pauses on a flower and draws out the nectar.
    2. God does not reveal much truth to people who just glance.
       1. This person often forgets where they read and what they read.
       2. If asked if the passage meant anything to him, if honest, he would say very little if anything.
  1. One man take a careful gaze.
     1. James 1:25
        1. “Looketh into the perfect law of liberty” literally means: to peer into something, to look, to scrutinize, to look intently.
        2. John 20:5
           1. John looked intently in the empty tomb.
           2. He concentrated on whatever was and was not there.
        3. 1 Peter 1:12
           1. The angels desired to look into and understand the prophecies.
  2. We, as Christians, need to do more than just nibble at the Word of God.
     1. We need to sit down and absorb and look into the Word of God because it is the Word of God that is the mirror that reveals us.
  3. If we look at ourselves in a literal mirror and see a dirty face or disheveled hair, we would fix it; we would want to make it right.
     1. When we read the Bible, we need to remember what we see.
        1. Write down the things you need to correct and then correct those things as you read the Bible.
        2. Psalm 119:9
           1. When the Word of God condemns you and reveals your filth, take heed to it.
           2. “Way” in this verse refers to “a rut.”
           3. Sin puts a muddy rut in to our lives.
        3. John 15:3
           1. “Clean” is the word from which we get our word “catharsis” from.

The Word of God does not just cleanse outwardly; it flows through our lives.

* + - 1. 2 Corinthians 3:18
         1. “Open face” means that there is no veil over our face.
         2. “As in a glass” means “as in a mirror.”

1. because the word of god is a mirror, i become more like Jesus
   1. God’s purpose for our lives:
      1. To show us what we are by nature.
      2. To show us what we ought to be by grace.
      3. God purpose in the Word of God is to make us more like Jesus.
         1. That image was marred when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden.
      4. Romans 8:29
         1. It is God’s desire that we be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. God does not wait until the rapture to make us like Jesus.
      1. He wants us to be like Jesus today.
      2. He wants us to go from glory to glory.
         1. There are three stages of glory.
            1. When you first get saved, that’s glorious.
            2. But when you learn the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that’s more glorious.
            3. And when you learn “death to self,” that’s most glorious.
   3. If the Bible is a mirror, who do I see in the mirror; myself or Jesus?
      1. You should see both.
         1. As a Christian, when you got saved, you are a part of Jesus.
         2. Looking in to the Bible will show you who you are by nature and who you can become by grace.
            1. The more you grow, the more you will Jesus in your reflection.

We are crucified with Christ.

We are risen with Christ.

Christ is in us and we are in Him.

This is why we are called Christians.

A Christian is somebody who is like Jesus.

* + - * 1. We ought to look in that mirror and see the image of Jesus reflected on the other side.

When we look at our reflection in the Word of God and see our own image, that leads to confession and cleansing.

When we look at our reflection in the Word of God and see Jesus, that leads to consecration and sanctification.

* + 1. The Bible mirrors Jesus. If you read the Bible and do not see Jesus, you need to re-read the Bible.
       1. Acts 10:43
          1. All the Old Testament prophets wrote about Jesus.

Do not get the idea that the New Testament takes up and starts with Jesus and the Old Testament is about Moses, or the laws, or the history of the Hebrews.

* + - 1. Luke 24:27
         1. Jesus is in all the Scriptures.
  1. The more you look in the Bible, the more you become what you are looking at.
     1. 2 Corinthians 3:18
        1. “Changed” is the same word in Matthew 17:2 that is translated “transfigured.”
        2. We are transfigured by reading the Bible.
     2. “Transfigured” is the word we get our word “metamorphosis” from.
        1. A change of form.
        2. A metamorphosis is not an outward change; it begins on the inside.
           1. The Shekinah glory did not shine down on Jesus; it shone out of Him.

It had been in Him all along.

* + - 1. A metamorphosis is simply the inner nature coming to the surface.
         1. The inner nature of Jesus was glory and is glory.
         2. Jesus’ inner nature was veiled by His flesh but during His transfiguration it came to the surface.
    1. We are also changed from glory to glory; we are transfigured.
       1. As we look into and obey the Word of God, a change takes place within us.
    2. What is the inner nature of a Christian?
       1. It is Jesus.
          1. Jesus is in us.
          2. Jesus is our inner nature.
       2. The more we look in the Bible, the more the nature of Jesus responds to what we see and changes us from the inside out.
    3. Romans 12:1-2
       1. “Transformed” in this passage is the same word for “metamorphosis.”
       2. How do we renew our mind?
          1. By looking in the Word of God.
       3. When we recognize our sin and ask for forgiveness, we get cleansed and forgiven.
       4. Then when we go back to the Bible, we see more of Jesus.
          1. We go from one stage of glory to the next stage of glory.

We do not stop growing.

* 1. Fable of “The Ugly Duckling.”
     1. A swan who did not realize he was a swan and swam with a flock of ducks.
     2. He went in search of a place to fit in but could not find one.
     3. He Sees some swans and think that they are the most beautiful of creatures.
     4. Eventually, in shame, he bows his head and sees his own reflection in the water; only then does he realize that he too is a swan.
  2. When we first see Jesus, we are humiliated.
     1. “Compared to Him, I am nothing.”
     2. But we will be like Him.
     3. Psalm 17:15
     4. As a Christian, Our inner nature is not the old Adam, but the new Adam; the Lord Jesus Christ.
        1. 2 Corinthians 3:18
  3. We become like what we worship.
     1. If we worship money, we become materialistic.
     2. If we worship power and prestige, we become hard, cold and callous.
     3. If we worship an idol, we become spiritually dead.
     4. Psalm 115:4-8
        1. At first man molds the idol, and then the idol molds the man.
           1. We become like what we worship.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Do you want to be a great Christian?
   2. God has given you a mirror to look at each morning.
      1. If your face is dirty, get clean; then continue to read.
   3. Find Jesus in the Word of God.
      1. Praise Him
      2. Worship Him
      3. Look for Him.
   4. You will begin to be more like Him as the inner nature, which is Jesus, comes to the surface.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16