

Look in the Mirror

Ephesians 2:12-14

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Proverbs 13:15

The way of the transgressor is hard.

James 1:22-24

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.



"I glanced round the bus. Though the windows were closed, and soon muffed, the bus was full of light. It was cruel light. I shrank from the faces and forms by which I was surrounded. They were all fixed faces, full not of possibilities but impossibilities, some giant, some bloated, some glaring with idiotic ferocity, some drowned beyond recovery in dreams; but all, in one way or another, distorted and faded. One had a feeling that they might fall to pieces at any moment if the light grew much stronger. Then--there was a mirror on the end wall of the bus--I caught sight of my own. And still the light grew." Page 17

Part 2

Message notes:

The ghosts are shells of what they were originally _____ to be.

Sin _____ us.

Sin _____ us.

The gospel is about _____.

Understand the evil in _____ heart.

God gives us the _____ to choose our own way.

Your face will eventually reflect your _____.

The point of this book is to take the _____ out of your own eye.

The challenge in this book is to look in the _____.

Without a _____, we will not embrace heaven.

Additional notes:

Discussion Questions:

Share a story of a time that you saw sin separate you—or someone close to you—from those who would bring help.

Pastor Jamie said “The gospel is about reconciliation.” Why would God choose to reconcile with us, even though we continue to struggle with sin?

Proverbs 13:15 says “the way of the transgressor is hard,” why do we continue to walk into sin even though it makes life more difficult? How can we make better choices?

Why is it so important to look at the evil in our own hearts instead of focusing on the devil or other people?

What is the danger in forgetting the way that our hearts looks in the mirror?

When we begin to get honest about our struggles and sins, what happens in our lives?

How can our group support you to continue to have these heart changes that lead us away from sin and onto the path that Jesus has for us?

Ministry Time Questions:

If you haven’t had that “heart change” that allows you to embrace heaven, can we pray for you?

Is anyone feeling isolated from others because of the effects of sin on your life?

*Before next week, read through chapter 4 in *The Great Divorce*.*