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Mirror, Mirror II: Your Reflection From the Other Side of Judgment

Genesis 3:1-8

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Snow White movie clip:

So the woman had a mirror. It gave her knowledge of beauty and ugliness; good and evil. With it, she could judge herself and others.

To judge is to separate. That's what the word literally means. With judgment, she could cut herself in two. She could see herself as she is, and imagine herself as she wanted to be: Snow White – pure.

I don't think that Snow White is some kind of racist thing. I think it's a reference to cleanliness and purity. Like Isaiah prophesied, *"Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be white as snow."* The old witch wanted to be most pure – Snow White. But she was not Snow White, so she tried to take Snow White from Snow White. She told her huntsman to bring Snow White's heart to her in a box. But it doesn't work – she can't justify herself. She can't make herself Snow White. In the end, through her judgments, she only makes herself ugly with the heart of a pig.

Genesis 2:16 – *God said, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

As we've seen, this is the 6th day. For on the 7th day: *"It is finished and everything the Lord God had made is very good."* Like Snow White – full of light.

But this is the 6th day, for not all is "very good." And the woman has not been completed in God's likeness, for she's tempted to complete herself in God's likeness.

On a fleshly level, she's completed by her "helper" – husband.

On a deeper level, we've all completed by our "helper," who is God.

Genesis 3:1-8 – *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent. "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you*

die.’’ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Now catalogue this fact: She gave some to her “ish” who was “with her”. Adam usually refers to “mankind” or “humanity”, but “ish” refers to men (not women). Its commonly translated “husband”. Isaiah tells us *“our maker is our husband.”* The New Testament tells us that Jesus is our husband, and that we are His bride. That’s something to ponder, and we will next week.

She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

To cover that part of themselves that they had just judged incomplete. That part only completed in the other... they hide that, from the other’s eyes.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

To cover themselves, whom they had just judged as incomplete... Themselves, who are only completed in God. They hid themselves from the eyes of the Father. And then the world gets very dark and ugly.

As we said last time: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the tree of law, and we look in it in order to judge.

- in order to make ourselves in the image of God
- in order to create ourselves with ourselves – the flesh.
- in order to judge ourselves and justify ourselves

Yet when we do that, we produce a monster.

The law, which is a mirror, is also a knife to separate. When we judge ourselves with that knife, we cut ourselves to ribbons and beat ourselves to death.

So Paul writes: *“With me it is a very small thing that I’m judged by you, or any human court. I don’t even judge myself... but I’m not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.”*

The Lord is a skilled surgeon; we’re hacks. We can’t judge, and we can’t justify. We judge, then try to justify with the very thing we just judged as bad. We try to create the self with self, which we just judged dead.

You see, the very desire to make ourselves good in God’s image, the very desire to justify ourselves with ourselves, with our works, apart from faith in God’s grace... is sin. So to try to fix sin with more sin, to fix death with more death, only “increases the trespass” and makes us “twice the children of Hell.”

The mirror “increases the trespass” by feeding the flesh. A mirror gives me more me. A mirror creates an image of me, a mask. I look into the law to create an image of me; me as I should be. Then “me” tries to shape “me” in that image. I become my own creator and savior, kind of like this:

Fight Club Movie Clip #1:

Tyler Durden is Jack, the man on the bed. He is Jack, as he’d like to be. Jack is mentally ill, yet as Tyler suggests, maybe we all are. We see ourselves as we’d like to be. So like we said last time, we become actors, impersonating ourselves. We’re trying to be the selves we’d like to be, according to some standard or law.

You see... Tyler looks like Jack wants to look (He looks like Brad Pitt for gosh sake). He’s smart, capable, and above all, “free in the ways Jack wants to be free.” An yet, as Jack begins to realize Tyler is a monster, Jack has created a monster and the monster is himself - his false self.

In theological terms: Tyler is an idol, and more specifically, an anti-Christ. Anti-Christ means someone that looks like Christ, but is opposed to Christ... someone who puts himself on the throne of God (seated on the ark above the law, in the place of judgment). There is “an Anti-Christ,” but John tells us that many “anti-Christ” have com, and that the “spirit of the Anti-Christ is in the world.” Whenever you try to justify, sanctify and save yourself, I think you’re tempted by the “spirit of the Anti-Christ.”

Tyler is Jack’s Anti-Christ, his own Anti-Christ. This is a scene earlier in the movie:

(I wouldn’t recommend this movie for family movie night – it’s too real) The move is titled Fight Club, and it turns out The Fight Club is Jack’s soul.

Fight Club Movie Clip #2:

- He tries to be his own savior, His own creator.
- He betrays himself with a kiss, and sacrifices himself for himself (did you see the scar on his hand?).
- He is “*wounded for his own transgress, bruised for his own iniquities.*”
- He judges and bears his own judgment to set himself free from himself, with himself.
- He doesn’t look at God, speak to God; he speaks to himself, for he has no faith in the Father (it’s understandable, for his own father abandoned him, or perhaps he abandoned his father).

Whatever the care, our Father’s Eyes are like mirrors. As we preached last itme, there is:

- A. The mirror of The Law – “The Knowledge of Good & Evil.” We look into it, and judge ourselves.
- B. The mirror of Our Father’s Eyes – “His Judgment.” The Father’s Eyes.

It was along about that age when my children became “self-conscious”... As Deuteronomy puts it, when little ones gain “knowledge of good and evil,” when they begin to judge themselves... It was then that

they adopted a favorite phrase: “I do it!” I’d be helping them, and they’d say “No, I do it!” Every time we sin, we say “No, I do it!” God said I will “make you in my image”, and we said “No, I do it!”

Once, along about that time, my daughter Elizabeth got really angry at me for something. She threw a three year-old tantrum and screamed “I don’t need a family!” Basically – “I do it!” And she screamed “I don’t want a daddy! I don’t need a daddy!” I said “Ok, goodbye”, and I didn’t talk to her. I didn’t look at her. I left her alone. Now, she may have felt forsaken (she was miserable), but of course I didn’t forsake her (only her illusion). She was in my house, eating my food – in paradise, but she was alone.

Later in the day, I did let her ride to the store with me. I remember we sat in the car in the garage in silence for about a minute, then I turned and looked at her. She looked at me... (I knew where she was: in a little Hell of her own making). She looked into my eyes. I remember my heart for her in that moment was huge. She looked into my eyes and literally just melted before me, like ice before fire. She threw herself on my lap, sobbing, “I want a daddy! I want a mommy! I want a family! I miss my daddy!” The most beautiful repentance I’ve ever seen. She died to herself and lived in me. As the Old Testament would put it, “she found Grace in my eyes.” That grace judged her, justified her, and sanctified her. At the end of the day, she was more beautiful than at the start.

What if our entire life in this world is like the time between Elizabeth saying “I do it! I don’t want a Daddy.” And the moment she looked into my eyes? The Father’s eyes. That would explain a lot.

In the Old Testament, God said to Moses, “*You cannot see my face, for no man shall see me and live.*” (Exodus 33:20) IT’s like we say “I do it” and the Father turns His face, for He knows His eyes, His judgment, would melt us, like ice before fire. Not because His eye is evil, but because our eye is evil, and He is the good.

And so what, man? What son of man? What Adam has the faith and courage to look at God from the Hell (the Hades) that we have made, and bear God’s judgment from that place? “*No man shall see my face and live.*” Yet Jacob wrestles this “God man” and then totally baffled, he says, “*I’ve seen God face to face, and yet my life is delivered.*”

Jacob also has a name name: Israel. Its like He’s died and been born again – “delivered” In John 1:8, Joshn writes “*No one has ever seen God: the only son who is the bosom of the Father. He has made him known.*” In John 3:11, he writes “*Whoever does good is from God. Whoever does evil has not seen God.*”

Its like Looking in God’s eyes kills us, resurrects us, and makes us in God’s image. In other words, it Judges, justified and sanctifies us. But:

1. What man has ever looked in the eyes of God?
2. How do we look into the eyes of God, our Father?

Jesus, Son of Man, the Ultimate Adam, has looked into the eyes of God, and He has born the Father’s judgment on our behalf. More than that, He is the Father’s judgment on our behalf. So seeing Him, we see the Father. (The 7 eyes of Yahweh (In Zech. 4:10) are the 7 eyes of the slaughtered Lamb (in Rev. 5:6)

We look into the eyes of God and see His heart.

We see the law.

We see the mirror.

We see the tree of knowledge.

Yet the law is fulfilled with grace.

The mirror is fully filled with a face – Christ’s face.

The tree is fully filled with a man – He’s been nailed there by us. He is the heart of God, which we take... but He gives – forgives.

Now, it’s all too much for words, so I want to show you this picture:

This is us judging God is Christ. And this God in Christ, judging us.

This is the real Christ, replacing our anti-Christes – not “I do it!” but “God did it.”

- This is God, speaking to God on our behalf.
- This is the Son of Man, staring into the eyes of the Father from the pit of Hell (our Hell).
- This is God’s Judgment over our judgments
- This is the sacrificial blood covering the law in the Holy of Holies
- This is the mercy seat, the throne of God, from which flow the river of life.
- This is the God-man – the Super-man – the Eschatos Adam – perfected faith.
- This is the Ultimate Adam, returning to the Garden, taking the fruit his Bride has handed him, for he’s with her, and he will not leave her or forsake her.
- This is Him, nailed to her tree, by her, for her and with her.
- This is the tree of knowledge, transformed into the tree of Life, standing in New Eden, the eternal city.
- This is the tree that bears body broken and blood shed – the great banquet.
- This is where we are made in God’s image, and how we’re made in God’s image.
- This is where we die, where the false self dies and the grand façade burns.
- And this is where we’re born: *“No longer I who live, but Christ in me.”*
- This is our Helper, this is our “Ish.” This is our husband.
- This is the seed. This is how we bear fruit, that is life.
- This is the end of the ages. This is the end of the 6th day, and the door to the 7th day.
- This is where “it is finished,” “completed,” “accomplished.”
- This is where the serpent is crushed, where the accuser is silenced, and how the captives are freed.
- This is mercy. This is grace. This is the unveiling of the heart of God.
- This is the Eternal fire. This is the judgment of all things.
- And this is our mirror. The eyes of God – God the son and God the Father.

Clip: Crucifixion and Resurrection

“In your eyes... the light, the heat. In your eyes, I am complete.”

Last week after the service, my friend Barry said “Do you know that term “Apple of the Eye” refers to your own reflection when you look in someone’s eye?” I looked it up and it’s true – the phrase is in the Bible.

Israel was actually commanded to sing it in a song – the song of Moses (Deut. 32). In the song, God tells them they are “the apple of His eye.” I looped up the word “apple” in the Hebrew (remember apples aren’t indigenous to Palestine). And sure enough, “apple” is just the closest English idiomatic expression. The Hebrew word is “ishown.” It’s the diminutive form of “ish” – man. So God says, “Israel, you are the little man in my eye.” “You all (my people) are the little man (singular) in my eye.” See?

Remember last week, when Snow White looked into her mirror (the wishing well)? She looked into the mirror and her Prince (her husband, her ish) showed up. At the cross, God is saying “Look into my eyes and Jesus will show up.”

A murdering old Pharisee (the world’s worst sinner), Saul of Tarsus, looked in the Father’s Eyes and saw Jesus. He wrote *“It’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”* Not the Anti-Christ, but Christ. Not the old Adam, but the new.

Jesus is God’s Judgment of You. Jesus is God’s opinion of You. How God feels about Jesus, is how God feels about you. And His mind is already made up.

If you look, you will see. If you hide, you won’t. That place you hide – in fig leaves and trees, in your knowledge of good and evil, in your justifications – that place is the edge of Hell. That is Hades. But if you look... though it burns... you will see GRACE.

I say this confidently because its Scripture, and because I’ve experienced it... especially with my friend Elaine. She shared her testimony here a few months ago. Elaine was ritually abused by her father and a coven. I talk about her often because her story is really my story now. For 15 years I’ve walked with her through her story and met Jesus there.

We’ve fought diseases, demons and even Satan himself. But all along, the real battle has been just one thing: and that is to convince Elaine to look into the eyes of Jesus. The real fight is with herself. Just as my fight is with myself. I’m my own fight club.

Now Elaine never split like Jack, but she hid. And so we’d ask Jesus to reveal himself in those places. It would start out as a memory, and usually turn into a vision. Jesus is always there “with her”. And you see, the battle is to convince Elaine to look in His eyes. For once she looks in His eyes nothing can stop her -- no demon, nothing. At first, His eyes will burn. In the Revelation, His eyes are fire. They burn away our judgments, our false self, our anti-Christ. They burn. But then they heal, for the very thing that burns is the very thing that heals. It’s the judgment of God, and that judgment is grace.

The eyes of Christ are a mirror, and many times, Jesus has actually held up a mirror. Elaine looks, and sees herself in white – snow white – a wedding dress.

That’s God’s judgment. And the only thing that keeps her from looking in the mirror that is God’s eye... The only thing that keeps her in bondage, and keeps you in bondage... The only thing that gives the Prince of Darkness that power, is your judgments.

Because of our judgments, you reject God's judgment. Your judgments create your old man, your false self, your own Anti-Christ. Your judgments are lies (demons inhabit lies). But you think your judgments are you, and so you think (and demons will tell you):

- "If I lose my addictions, I'll die."
- "If I confess my shame, I'll die."
- "If I confess my anger, I'll die."

Well, the false self will die, but the true self will be born. "Jesus Christ", the truth, will be found in you. That old self is fragile, and the new self is indestructible, eternal in the Heavens.

There are two mirrors: One is the law – The knowledge of good and evil. The other is the law filled with life, covered by grace.

So we come to church not to look into the law and see ourselves. We come to church to look into the law and see Jesus. It's not that the law doesn't matter, far from it. It's the law that reveals Jesus, and our need for Jesus.

- The law reveals we're dead and need life – that's Jesus.
- The law reveals we're a lie and need truth – that's Jesus.
- The law reveals we're guilty and need grace – that's Jesus.
- The law reveals we're empty and need filling – with Jesus.

We come to church to look into the law, and see Jesus Christ crucified in our place. When we see Jesus, we lose ourselves, forget ourselves, confess ourselves, empty ourselves, and find our true selves in that very place. We put off the old man and put on the new (the "ishown" – the apple of God's eye).

The bad father will judge His children this way: He'll say "I can't believe you lied. You're a no good, little liar, and you'd better change if you want to be my son!"

The good Father, our Heavenly Father, judges His children this way: He says "It hurts me that you lied. Look me in the eye. That is not who you are. You are honest and good and true. You are mind, and that will never change."

"As a man thinketh, so is he."

Believing God's judgment makes us good. We can't make ourselves good in order to be judged good by God. Through believing God's judgment, I become good.

When judged by God, you may feel like you're losing yourself, but truly you're coming home to yourself. You meet your true self on the other side of God's judgment. The other side of God's judgment is eternal, in the Heavens – the 7th day. There the fight is over, and you are one. No division. No fight club. Perfect peace.

That's why Paul wrote *"When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. And raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ."*

God has already made up his mind about you. He finished you in Christ at His cross. That's God's judgment, as you believe God's judgment and die to your own, this world loses its grip on you. When you finally believe God's judgment, His judgment will be your judgment and you'll be home.

Last year, my friend Elaine had a traumatic experience that gave power to the Evil One. It happened in Africa during the revolution in Kenya. It happened one night at a bonfire, where the locals sacrificed a goat. It tapped into numerous old memories, likes and fears. When Susan and I prayer for her, I had her picture that fire. She was terrified of the fire – we all are. But then she saw Jesus in the fire, looking at her. He had