



The Mess in the Mirror

Introduction

Whether we're religious or not, we all have at least one thing in common: we've all made some messes in our lives. You've said things like, "I messed that up," "I made a mess of that," or, "My life is a mess." We've all been in, are in, or are only one decision away from a mess. But there's something you need to know: there's a powerful connection between your messes and your relationship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

"If you can see your mess, you can see God. To recognize one is to acknowledge the other."

What are the messy circumstances we find ourselves in or see others in? Why do we struggle with compassion towards other people's mess?

Read: Romans 3:19–20,23

Context: *Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a church in Rome which became known as the book of Romans. In this section of the letter, he makes the point that our messes get in the way of our relationship with God, but God uses our mess to bring us near to him.*

- Why is our mess common ground?
- Andy made the point that Christians believe that the mess that brings us together is also the mess that brought God near. How does our mess become a lens to discover God?
- In the verses, what is common among everyone on earth? Why is that important to understand in our relationship with God? What does this tell us about the grace of God?
- What is this glory of God that we have fallen short of in Romans 3:23? Take a couple minutes to think about that.
- Awareness of our mess awakens us to something outside of us, to which we are accountable. How does that impact the way we live as we follow Christ? How does this level the playing field among every demographic and geographic area of Colorado Springs to Castle Rock and all the way to Fountain?
- Why are we quick to see the mess in others and not as quick to admit the mess in our life?
- We are all a mess yet God has grace and mercy on us. He took our mess upon himself so that we could come near to him. If God has done this for us, how should we then show grace and mercy to others?
- Do you and I have a burden for others struggling with their mess? Do we make church and our Christian walk about "me" rather than bringing people near to God?
- How can this group help you address the mess in your life? How can this group help you be more compassionate to the people around you?

MOVING FORWARD

We each have something in common with the people or groups we don't agree with or get along with. We're all a mess. We all fall short of our own standards. We all fall short of each other's standards. We all fall short of God's standards. Yet, God has graciously covered us.

When you see someone else's mess, don't judge and condemn. Instead, say to yourself, "I know a mess when I see one because I'm a mess too."

LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: Romans 3:23

Journaling: Take some time to journal about this glory of God by listing out his attributes this week.

Prayer: Ask God to forgive your pride and admit your mess to him.

Accountability: Ask a friend to keep you accountable when you feel yourself slipping back into your mess.