

WEEKLY SERMON

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How do you see yourself?

'See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.' Romans 6:11

I don't know about you, but I've noticed that, in these days of Zoom calls, I see more of myself close up and more frequently than I would like to!

I know that I'm not the only one to notice my lockdown hair ... it is a frequent topic of conversation between the presenters of BBC North West Tonight, all of whom have been eagerly awaiting the day when they can get their hair cut.

Francesca Lia Block, an American writer of adult and young-adult literature, is credited as saying: "The girl in the mirror wasn't who I wanted to be, and her life wasn't the one I wanted to have."

I wonder if we have similar thoughts ... do we look in the mirror and see our failings and feel ashamed?

Do we wish that we could have a different life?

The good news is that we can have a different life.

Paul tells his readers to have a good look at themselves but in the context of what Jesus has done.

He reminds them (and us) of the truth about ourselves and how, without Jesus, it was like being dead, enslaved and ashamed of the things we have done. But that's not the whole picture.

Jesus' death and resurrection has made it possible to have new life and find freedom from the things that bind us.

Seeing ourselves in the light of what Jesus has done, dead to sin and alive to God, is a powerful reminder that liberates us from our old ways of living and motivates us to live that new life that God gives and bring glory to him.

The message for us this Easter is that through 'the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives'. (Romans 6:4)

Alleluia!

Joy Rushton
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