

RIGHT IN THE EYE

PART 3: Good at Looking

INTRODUCTION

You think you want to be like everybody else. But everybody else takes their cues from everybody else. Being like everybody else just makes you average—worried, in debt, bored, and dissatisfied with what you have. If you knew that living like everybody else on the outside would leave you feeling like this on the inside, you would have done what you suspected was right in your heart instead of doing what was right in your own eyes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were a child, who did you want to grow up to be like? What did you admire about that person? Looking back, how realistic was your perception of that person?
2. What are some things you do to make sure people only see your life's highlight reel? How does that influence whether you're living in a "kingdom of conscience" or a "kingdom of covet"?
3. Read Joshua 23:12-13. What are some of the cultural "snares" and "traps" we face today? How do they separate us from what God wants for us?
4. How has the cycle of disobedience, disaster, and deliverance played out in your relationship with God?
5. Where do you see worry, boredom, dysfunction, or fear in your life? How is it connected to a desire to be like everybody else?
6. Think about one area of your life in which you need to stop trying to be like everybody else. What is one thing you can do to yield that area to God? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

When it comes to who you want to be like, God wants you to look up at him, not at the people around you. Have you yielded your heart to the invisible king? For the next seven days, pray the words of the verse that follows out loud. It comes from Psalm 119, written by Israel's future king, who realized that even kings need a King.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.*

*Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.*

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.*

Psalm 119:35-37