



Week 5: Naked and Unashamed

APPETIZER: Shame on You

James 1:14-15

I define shame as the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging – something we've experienced, done, or failed to do makes us unworthy of connection.

~ Brené Brown (Research Professor, University of Houston)

I was quite sure I was the only person who felt this flawed and fearful inside. That's what shame is about: it always singles you out as uniquely damaged goods. And your shame is one of the things you're ashamed of, so you never tell anyone else how you feel about yourself, and you never have the chance to hear that they feel the same way.

~ Doug Frank (Essay in *Proclaiming the Scandal of the Cross*)

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
(Genesis 2:25; also see 3:7-11)

JESUS IS GOD WITH US, COME TO



SHOW US
GOD'S LOVE,



SAVE US
FROM SIN,



SET UP GOD'S
KINGDOM, AND



SHUT DOWN
RELIGION,

SO WE CAN SHARE IN GOD'S LIFE.

DINE IN: God's Solution To Our Shame

How Jesus interpreted his own death:

1. A ransom for our FREEDOM (Mark 10:45)
2. A source for our HEALING (John 3:14-15)
3. EXPOSING the ways of the world (John 12:31-33)
4. EXPELLING the Prince of the world (John 12:31-33)
5. REVEALING the heart of God (John 12:45)
6. An inspiring EXAMPLE (John 12:23-26)
7. A compelling INVITATION (John 12:32)
8. The cutting of a NEW COVENANT (Luke 22:20)

John 3:14-17; 12:31-33

Revelation 13:8

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
(Hebrews 12:2)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be
(James 5:13-16)

TAKE OUT: The Cross as Invitation

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
~ Jesus (John 12:32)

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **John 12:20-33**
 - a. What is your first impression of this passages?
 - b. What do you think Jesus means for us to "hate" our lives? (Keep in mind he elsewhere says that the greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbour *as we love ourselves*.)
 - c. According to verse 26, how can we overcome our own shame and isolation that it produces? What does that look like practically? Talk about examples from your own experience.
 - d. How does the cross, which looks like the world judging Jesus, become the judgement of the world?
 - e. If Satan ("the prince of this world") has been driven out by Jesus already through the cross, why does it seem like he is just as active and influential as ever?
 - f. How have you experienced Jesus drawing you? Your friends or family? Others in the world?
 - g. Think back over this and other passages talked about in this week's sermon. Take a few moments to review them if you like. Then, in your own words, try to describe some of the ways the willing and horrible death of Jesus can take away our shame and open us up to real freedom and life.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. What is God saying to you, convicting you of, or encouraging you about this week? How are you responding?