

Shame on Jesus

27th November 2022 –
The Shamed Messiah

Key Scripture: Hebrews 12: 1-2

Summary:

This passage is written to Christians experiencing shame (we looked at the context of Heb 10: 32-35) who were considering giving up. This passage encourages them to keep running the race with perseverance (to keep focussed on the goal of being transformed). But there is a power that can hinder us – sin. Sin is described in many ways in Scripture – it can be things we do wrong, or good things that we don't do, or a sickness that needs healing, a debt, a weight, a lostness or a power that we need liberating from (which is what the author seems to have in mind here).

We are liberated by the death of Jesus on the cross at Passover - Jesus himself redefined Passover, a festival that remembered liberation from the power of evil and slavery in Egypt. This slavery was a deep shaming experience for Israel, and so liberation from slavery was also a liberation from shame – although the shame persisted beyond deliverance from Egypt, until they entered the promised land. This defeat of sin, evil and shame was accomplished as Jesus walked willingly into the shame of the cross – betrayal by his people, and the shame of crucifixion – and this journey into & through this shame ended with him being raised to a place of honour at the right hand of God.

Thus, he became the pioneer of our faith – the first to make this journey so that we can follow in his footsteps. We need to keep going, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, as he leads us on this journey of walking free from shame.

You can listen or watch again to this sermon [here](#).

Further resources:

There is a lovely story, written by Max Lucado, called “You are special”. It is all about how we can find some freedom from shame. You can watch a short video of this story [here](#).

There is a brilliant [podcast](#) worth listening to part of – an interview of best-selling author and business consultant, Patrick Lencioni by host Carey Nieuwhof. While the interview isn't primarily about shame, Patrick does talk about deepening his relationship with God, and his deepest wound being shame. It is powerful and gripping, and you can hear how living out of shame can be so empty. The segment of the interview primarily worth listening to is from around 4 mins to 44 mins.

Discussion:

(this could be something that you talk about with some friends, or in a small group).

1. How is it helpful to define sin in these different ways? How have you experienced sin as a power that you need liberating from?
2. What is like to fix your eyes (or gaze) on Jesus, and see his gaze on you? What is reassuring? What is uncomfortable?
3. As Jesus has gone before you in this journey into and through shame, what is he inviting you to? What is a good next step?



Put it into Practice:

In our prayer this week, it might be helpful to reflect on the questions above. If you turn your eyes towards the face of Jesus, what do you see in his face, his eyes?

Is there some small, wise, step you can take in this journey of freedom from shame?

Previous PDFs in Series:

1. [The Origins of Shame](#)
2. [Run and Hide](#)
3. [Appease](#)
4. [Cast a spell](#)
5. [Attack](#)
6. [The Compassionate Christ](#)