

“Shame Before Jesus” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | Fourth Sunday of Easter (5/03/2020)

Acts 2:42-47

2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Hebrews 12:1-3

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

John 21:1-4; 15-17

21:1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, ... 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” ... but that night they caught nothing. 4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore ... 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 ... a 2nd time, “... do you love me?” ... “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” ... “Tend my sheep.” 17 ... 3rd time, “do you love me?” Peter was grieved ... and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

**In-Between Encounters** – After the resurrection but before the ascension

**Introduction** These encounters still happen now. As in the film, *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, the lead characters here are fleeing shame. How does Jesus combat Peter’s shame? How do we combat ours?

**Background**

**Description:** The disciples are on the boat at night in the midst of the sea, which often signifies chaos. Alone in the dark. Alone under the weight of what has happened. Alone in the midst of nothingness. Do you know this place? Do you know shame? “There is virtually nothing left untainted by shame” (Curt Thompson, *The Soul of Shame*). Is now an opportune time to try to recognize this place of shame in our lives? The message of shame is that you are not enough. Notice Hebrews 12. The point of crucifixion was to erase the victim. We do not know any other pre-Christian victim, which was the point. Twelve categories of shame: appearance & body image, money & work, motherhood, fatherhood, family & parenting, mental & physical health, addiction, sex, aging, religion, surviving trauma, being stereotyped. Do you know this place?

**Reception:** Jesus singles out Peter (as the one who had denied Him), but not to shame him. Jesus still wants Peter’s love; the answer to shame’s accusation: “Who would want *your* love?” Jesus welcomes Peter’s love.

**Reinstatement:** “Peter, you *do* love me. Now be reinstated to service.” Jesus had changed Peter’s name, but in his shame, Peter has reverted to his previous self – a simple fisherman. Jesus calls him to lay aside his shame; to scorn his shame, and to love and serve others.

**Discuss:**

- 1.) Do you know the place of shame? Which of the 12 categories mentioned in the sermon hit home with you? Is there any unconfessed sin involved? Or is it rather a case of unaccepted forgiveness?
- 2.) How do you recognize it when you find yourself in the place of shame? Are there warning signs that you can identify and break bad patterns?
- 3.) How does this shame hang onto you? How do you allow it to control your actions and attitudes? How does it prevent you from loving God and serving others?
- 4.) What is your default approach to dealing with your shame? Do you condemn yourself and retreat into self-absorption and a “needy” persona? Do you condemn others, continually critical and cynical in an attempt to even things out somehow? Do you try to deny it altogether, striving to “do enough” to overcome its stigma?
- 5.) How can you “feed the sheep”? What aspect of shame do you need to “lay aside” in order to do so?

**Conclusion/Application**

How will you choose to deal with your shame? Ask God to make your response to shame more clear to you, and commit to “laying it aside” in order to better love others.