

Session 3 Confidence in Love: Overcoming Shame (Jn. 14:2-3)

I. REVIEW: JESUS' COMMAND NOT TO ALLOW TROUBLE TO DOMINATE OUR HEART

- A. Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1). There are human dynamics involved as indicated by His command to “let not...” He responds by giving us peace. In this session we focus on having confidence in God’s love as the way not to be troubled by shame.
- ³⁸*Jesus answered him [Peter], “...the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.”*
¹*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God [a fact], believe also in Me [a command].”*
²⁷*My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled... (Jn. 13:38-14:1, 27)*
1. In session one, I identified 7 pressures that would naturally cause 4 emotions or mindsets that would trouble them—*grief* from the death of a loved one, *fear* with despair from the crisis in the culture and persecution, *shame* from personal failure, and *bitterness* from betrayal.
 2. Jesus told Peter, “You will deny Me three times (13:38), but let not your heart be troubled.” He informed Peter that he was not as strong as he thought he was, then Jesus gave 4 core truths to help Peter overcome a troubled heart related to the shame of betraying Jesus.
- B. John 14:1 is not a salvation appeal to become born again. Many in Israel, including the Pharisees believed in the *God of Moses* without having seen His form (Jn. 5:37). They had *faith in an invisible God*. They were meticulous about the laws of Moses believing that they came from their invisible God. Jesus called them to believe also in Him *in this way*—after He died and was no longer visible.
1. Jesus was saying as it were, “I will be invisible to you, but you must believe what I tell you about 4 truths (14:2-3) like you believe in the invisible God who gave the law of Moses.”
 2. Thus, He insisted that receive Him as God similarly to their belief in the Father.
- C. The apostles’ crisis of stumbling (denying or abandoning Jesus) was a painful, personal failure (13:38; 16:33). To alert them to pray, Jesus told them that they would all abandon Him (Mt. 26:31).
- ³⁸*...the rooster shall not crow till you [Peter] have denied Me three times. (Jn. 13:38)*
³²*...the hour...has now come, that you will be scattered...and will leave Me alone. (Jn. 16:33)*
³⁰*...they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Jesus said, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night...³⁴[Peter] will deny Me three times.” (Mt. 26:30-34)*
- D. Jesus told Peter a second time on that way to the Mount of Olives that he would deny Jesus. Peter pushed back yet again. *Peter had more confidence in his commitment to Jesus than in Jesus’ commitment to him*. Afterwards Peter would see Jesus’ commitment to him is far superior to his commitment to Jesus—this resulted in him being overwhelmed with gratitude for being so loved even in his weakness. This changed the way Peter felt about others who struggled with sin and weakness.
- E. Various sins and weaknesses are highlighted in the life of the leaders in the early church (Mk. 9:33; 10:33; Lk. 9:54-55; Acts 15:39; Rom. 7:18-19; Gal. 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:10; 3 Jn. 9).

II. THE ASSURANCE OF BEING ENJOYED BY GOD: POWER OVER SHAME

- A. God designed the human spirit with the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God even in our weakness. This assurance grows in us as we gain understanding of His affections. He delights in the relationship He has with sincere believers (Isa. 62:4; Ps. 149:4; Song 7:10; Lk. 15:20). David was a student of God's emotions. His insights into God's emotions are seen throughout the Psalms.

⁴*For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble... (Ps. 149:4)*

⁴*...but you shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you... (Isa. 62:4)*

¹⁸*Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...? Because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)*

- B. We cannot thrive spiritually without confidence in God's affection towards us, even in our weakness. The affection of the "Genesis 1 God" for us is a declaration of our value as a person. Confidence that God enjoys us and delights in showing us mercy (Mic. 7:18) strengthens our heart. Confidence empowers us *to run to God* instead of *running from God* when we see our sinfulness.

- C. The fear of rejection with shame is perhaps the most common destructive and painful emotion that we can experience. Many psychologists disagree in how they distinguish between guilt and shame. One view is that a person who feels guilty sees that "*what they did was wrong*" and thus they feel responsible to correct it. The one with shame concludes that "*who they are is wrong*." They lash out in anger at themselves and others and thus either avoid or attack people. Many who are highly judgmental struggle with shame. They vent their disgust of themselves by speaking critically of others. *What we say about others say a lot about how we see ourselves*. The contrast of guilt and shame in secular terms parallels the contrast of conviction and condemnation in biblical terms.

- D. What do we do when our heart is troubled with shame and condemnation related to our failure? We must realign our mind to agree with what God said: His peace will guard our hearts. Paul exhorted us to engage in prayer and thanksgiving (for core truths); that is, conversation with God that expresses thanks for the core biblical truths which are foundational to receiving His peace.

⁶*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God...will guard your hearts and minds... (Phil. 4:6-7)*

²*...be transformed [emotionally] by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)*

- E. We have confidence because of what He did (14:2), how He feels (14:3), and who He is (14:4-10).

²*In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...³I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (Jn. 14:2-3)*

1. *What He did (14:2)*: Jesus is the architect of the New Jerusalem (Heb 11:10) which is the Father's house, and He went to the cross to make a way for us to live there.

¹⁰*[Abraham] was looking for the city...whose architect and builder is God. (Heb. 11:10 NAS)*

2. *How He feels (14:3)*: He desires that we be with Him (17:24).

3. *Who He is (14:4-10)*: He is the only way to the Father and is one with the Father (Jn. 10:30).

III. FOUR CORE TRUTHS (JN. 14:2-3)

- A. Jesus declared 4 core truths in John 14:2-3: Three of these core truths are related to **what** Jesus has done or will do and one core truth tells us **why** He committed to do what He did.

²In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...³I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (Jn. 14:2-3)

1. **Truth #1—My Father's house:** The Lord is the architect and builder of the New Jerusalem (Heb. 11:10), or the Father's house, where the redeemed live and belong together as family in God's immediate presence and enjoy pleasures and beauty that surpass any paradise that we can imagine. He prepared the way for us to enjoy the Father's house *spiritually* in this age by the indwelling Spirit (14:17, 23) and *physically* when He returns at His second coming.
 2. **Truth #2—I am going to prepare a place for you:** Jesus succeeded in accomplishing eternal salvation. He went to the cross to prepare or fully secure our place in the Father's house forever. Within one day He cried out, "It is finished" or the work of atoning for sin is done.
 3. **Truth #3—I will come for you:** He will come back to receive His people to Himself. He will come to His people *physically* at the end of this age to reign over all the nations from Jerusalem, while He comes to them *spiritually* in this age by the indwelling Spirit (14:23).
 4. **Truth #4—That where I am, there you may be:** Here, Jesus gave the **why** behind **the what** He would do in 3 areas (the Father's house, going to the cross, and His second coming). He desires His people more than they desire Him just as He is more committed to His people than they are to Him. This core truth helped Peter not to be troubled with shame of his failure.
- B. Jesus *began* elaborating on what it means to overcome a troubled heart by promising that He would bring them to the Father's house. This gave them a radically new perspective for their lives.
- C. Jesus went to the cross to prepare a place for us. That "place" was prepared when He died to atone for our sin. He had to suffer God's wrath in our place to remove every obstacle to our acceptance by God. Jesus, the innocent One became guilty so that the guilty ones could stand as innocent before God. The next day Jesus declared, "*It is finished!*" He qualified us join Him there now and forever.
- ²¹For He [the Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)**
- ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood...²⁶that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus...²⁸a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. (Rom. 3:24-28)**
- D. He made a monumental statement when He said, "*I go to prepare a place for you.*" This promise had a tone of certainty and finality knowing "it would be forever finished" in the next 24 hours. He prepared a place for us to live in a face-to-face relationship with the Father—in His very house.
- E. They had no idea of the magnitude of what Jesus was saying to them, that He was going to die to accomplish eternal salvation for them. We must never lose our fascination and focus on the cross.

IV. JESUS PREPARED THE WAY FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE WITH HIM (JN. 14:3)

- A. Jesus applied His promise *to come to them* in 3 ways—His second coming (14:3; Mt 24:30), by dwelling in them by the Spirit (14:23), and appearing to them soon after His resurrection (16:16).
³***I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*** (Jn. 14:3)
²³***...If anyone loves Me...We will come to him and make Our home with him.*** (Jn. 14: 23)
- B. ***There you may be:*** Jesus is deeply desirous for us to be with Him forever (14:3; 17:24). He had told them three times before this that He was going to die and be raised (Mt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19) but here He told them *why* He was to die—to prepare the way for them “*to be with Him forever.*”
²⁴***Father, I desire that they...may be with Me where I am...[to] behold My glory...*** (Jn. 17:24)
¹⁸***...that you may know...the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*** (Eph. 1:18)
- C. Jesus paid the full price to secure our nearness to Him. Jesus died so we could be with Him and not stand at a distance because of shame. *He desires us more than we desire Him*—thank Him for this.
¹⁹***...having boldness [confidence] to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...***²²***let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance...***²³***Hold fast the confession of our hope...*** (Heb. 10:19-23)

V. HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO THE DISCIPLES IN THEIR FAILURE

- A. On the night that Peter and all the others stumbled (Mt. 26:31), Jesus spoke of loving them (15:9; 17:23), called them His friends (15:15), prayed for them, and spoke words of life over them (15:8). Jesus never changes (Heb. 13:8); how He responded to the apostles then is how He responds to us. He declared truths over them *before* they stumbled—it is easier to believe truth *before* stumbling.
⁸***By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...*** (Jn. 15:8)
⁹***As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you...*** (Jn. 15:9)
¹¹***These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you...*** (Jn. 15:11)
¹⁵***...I have called you friends...*** (Jn. 15:15)
- B. Jesus spoke words of life over Peter, assuring him that he would recover and be used by God.
³¹***The Lord said, “Simon...Satan has asked for you...³²I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*** (Lk. 22:31-32)
- C. Jesus re-enacted what happened when He met Peter (Jn 21:3-6 11; cf. Lk. 5:5-10). Peter denied Jesus 3 times, and He commissioned Peter to leadership 3 times—“feed my sheep (Jn. 21:15-17) .
¹⁵***Jesus said to Simon Peter, “...do you love Me?...feed My lambs.”***¹⁶***He said...a second time, “Simon...tend My sheep.”***¹⁷***He said to him the third time...“Feed My sheep.”*** (Jn. 21:15-17)
- D. We must see the difference between rebellion and spiritual immaturity in those who sincerely seek to obey God. God is angry at rebellion but feels affection for immature believers who love Him.
²⁰***...his father...had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him...*** (Lk. 15:20)