

# By the Hem of His Robe

Considering suffering & shame in light of Christ

**Mark 5:25-34**



# I'm struggling with...Shame

- Shame refers to something about your character or who you are as a person that you believe is unacceptable. Shame is not about doing something wrong (i.e., guilt). It is about a feeling that you have when you perceive that you are not good enough in some way.
- It is the opposite of our *Imago Dei*, our identity as *children* of the most-high God.

# Shame

- Shame is our greatest cultural fear (Lifeway Research, 2017)
- Shame proneness leads to a sense of inferiority, hopelessness & helplessness, and a willingness to conceal failure. (Andrews et al., 2002)
- The Hebrews viewed shame as a state of physical suffering on a continuum with death.

*Among Americans:*

# Which of these feelings do you seek to avoid the most?



**Note:** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

# Not the way it's supposed to be!

- In the beginning...all is good, *Shalom* (Genesis 1:31)
- Influence of the “other” (Genesis 3:5)
- Violation of *Shalom* (Genesis 3:6)
- Brokenness and shame (Genesis 3:7)
  - “*Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.*”

# The birth of shame

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife *hid themselves* [emphasis added] from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, *because I was naked*, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” (Genesis 3:8-11, ESV)

# When the Time was Right!

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as *sons* [ and *daughters*]” (Galatians 4:4-5)

# Jesus' Ministry Begins

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to *set at liberty those who are oppressed* [emphasis added],” (Luke 4:18, ESV)



# Signs & Power to restore Shalom

- Drives out spirits/demons
- Heals the sick
- Authority to forgive sins
- Controls nature
- Power over death? (Jairus' daughter, Mark 5:21-24)

## Mark 5:21-24

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus [**“God enlightens”**] by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and *thronged about him* [emphasis added].

## Mark 5:25-26

A woman suffering from bleeding for 12 years had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, *she became worse* [emphasis added].

# Unclean & Despised

"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, *all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean.* Every bed on which she lies, all the days of her discharge, shall be to her as the bed of her impurity. And everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. And whoever touches these things shall be unclean and shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening." (Leviticus 15:25-27)

## Mark 5:27-29

Having heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His robe. For she said, “If I can just touch His robes, I’ll be made well!” Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was cured of her affliction.



## Mark 5:30-31

At once Jesus realized in Himself that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My robes?”

His disciples said to Him, “*You see the crowd pressing against You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’*”

[emphasis added]

## Mark 5:32-33

So He was looking around to see who had done this.  
Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her,  
came with *fear and trembling*, fell down before Him,  
and told Him the whole truth.





# Shame

- “Shame is the uncomfortable sensation we feel in the pit of our stomach when it seems we have no safe-haven from the judging gaze of others.”
- “We feel shame when we violate the social norms we believe in. At such moments we feel humiliated, exposed and small and are unable to look another person straight in the eye. We want to sink into the ground and disappear. Shame makes us direct our focus inward and view our entire self in a negative light.” (Kämmerer, 2019)

# Fear of the Lord

- “Then I said: Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts.” (Isaiah 6:5)
- “When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, because I’m a sinful man, Lord!” (Luke 5:8)

# Mark 5:34

“**Daughter,**” He said to her, “your faith has *made you well*.<sup>[a]</sup> Go in **peace** and **be free**<sup>[b]</sup> from your affliction.”

# What about Jairus' Daughter?

- While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” (Mark 5:35)
- But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, *“Do not fear, only believe.”* [emphasis added] (v. 36)
- Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. (vv. 41-42)

# Mission & Prophecy

- “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:2, NASB)
- “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit”. (Psalm 34:18, ESV)
- “...to proclaim liberty to the captives...to *set at liberty those who are oppressed* [emphasis added],” (Luke 4:18, ESV)
- “...to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as *sons* [ and *daughters* ]” (Galatians 4:4-5)

# Three Perspectives

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**Woman** – broken, fearful, & faithful

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**Disciples** – blind, haughty, & worldly

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**Jesus** – compassionate, redeeming, & reconciling

# Impact of Shame

- Makes you feel like you are flawed or there is something wrong with you
- Can lead to social withdrawal, especially when it is a result of public stigma
- May leave you feeling empty, lonely, or worn-out
- May lead to lowered self-esteem
- May make it harder for you to trust other people



# Dealing with Shame

- Remember that God's love for you is unconditional (without any strings) when you feel shame. He cares and will make time for you.
- Be honest with yourself and with other people (role of confession & ministering to others).
- Don't avoid the shame that you are feeling. Rather, talk about your feelings and share them in safe relationships (discipleship, deacons, etc.)
- Allow your suffering to be legitimized and normalized. Shame and suffering are real, and Jesus died to remedy these conditions.

