

Shattered

what God is doing to the Church

This Week's Message: *Transparency by Exposure*

Key Takeaways: *After choosing to believe the Devil's lies, Adam and Eve are left broken by a new reality - SHAME.* For the first time in their life, they realized their nakedness before God. So they did the only thing they knew to do. *They hid.*

Genesis 3:8-9 says, "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 from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

Imagine that. Just the sound of God's presence caused them to hide. Their nakedness became their focal point. (Genesis 3:10.) It is interesting what things we consider to be "The Sound of God." We schedule revivals, create God-approved playlists, and regiment Christianity in order to determine His naughty and nice list. In many ways, we come to the Bible already knowing what it says. But when we finally come into the presence of the Almighty, such pretense and arrogance are left outside. Stripped of everything we thought we knew, we are gloriously exposed by the Light of Jesus. And this is the wonder of the Gospel. In the same moment Christ exposes our utter failure to uphold His Law, He makes it possible for us to be declared righteous. Our identity is no longer in our mistakes or our successes. Often times, we can't tell the difference. No, our identity is found in Christ alone. Therefore, we don't have to hide anymore. He has made us new, and called us to champion His message of grace to a world suffocating under the grip of shame.

Questions to Think On & Discuss:

- (1) What are the areas of your life that you are beginning to feel exposed? Is it the way you've always viewed God, or church, or even yourself? What perspectives does God seem to be shattering?
- (2) How have you hidden from God and others in your life because of shame? What does the Gospel do with our shame?
- (3) Are you more focused on your ability to perform or God's power at work in you? *Answer slowly.*

This Week's Challenge

Try a simple exercise. Think of a time in your life that you were absolutely sure you knew the right plan of action only to later discover God was doing something different (and better) than your perspective allowed you to see at the time. What did God teach you through that experience? Where did you get it wrong? How can you apply those lessons in your life moving forward?