



Jesus and the Wound of Shame

Matthew 26:57-68

There are few places where spitting is appropriate. In our culture, to spit on someone is one of the most demeaning things we can do.

This was also true in the first-century Jewish world. In a culture built on honor and shame, one of the most shameful things to endure was to be spat upon. In the Hebrew Scriptures, it was a sign of public disgrace. It declared someone dishonored. Shamed. Stripped of dignity.

And in Matthew 26, they spit in Jesus' face.
Jesus is shamed.

Today we consider what Jesus did with the
wound of shame.

Jesus' shame has a lot to say to us. Let's look
at the story.

Don't rush past this scene:

**Jesus, Exalted Creator and God, is shamed
by those he created.**

It's horrible for a human to spit on another; this
is in a category by itself.

The Son, who had faced the Father and Spirit in
eternity, is spat upon.

The Face too holy to behold is struck, spat
upon, and mocked.

And it takes place in the courtyard of the
religious elite.

*Where have you felt shame? Where do you feel
shame?*

Was it something you've done? Or something

done to you?

Jesus understands. He felt it too.

In Jesus, God stepped into our shame and absorbed its blows.

Isaiah foresaw this: “I did not hide My face from insults and spitting.”

Where Jesus’ shame differs from ours is that he willingly submitted to it.

Remember the legions of angels Jesus spoke of?

They are still on standby— awaiting his command. But Jesus is silent.

Shame isolates. Jesus enters the isolation.

Shame silences. Jesus absorbs the silence.

Shame says, “You are unworthy.”

The cross says, “You are worth My life.”

In Jesus, our shame was carried and crucified on the cross.

Hebrews tells us that Jesus, “endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (12:2)

What Jesus did on the cross means:

- 1) You are not what you've done — or what has been done to you.
- 2) You can stop punishing yourself.
- 3) You don't have to perform to be loved and accepted.
- 4) Your worst life moment can be redeemed (just ask Peter).

The cross did not just forgive your sins; it crucified your disgrace. The worst thing that has ever happened to you. The worst thing you have ever done. The label you fear most. It was dragged into the open and nailed to wood. Jesus carried your shame publicly— you do not have to carry it secretly. This week, name your shame. Write it down. Inventory the thoughts attached to it and replace them with the truth the cross declares!