
SCORNING THE
SHAME

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great
cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that
hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us
run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
[2] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of
faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of
the throne of God.

The Greek word for “shame” is wider than our traditional definition.

1 John 2:28

"Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not *shrink away* from Him in *shame* at His coming." (NASB 1995)

“scorn”

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“to think down upon”

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“despise”

“scorn”

“to think down upon”

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“lack of regard/respect”

“scorn”

“to think down upon”

“despise”

“lack of regard/respect”

“treating something/someone with contempt.”


I hold myself in contempt!

Jesus "*endured* the cross" but "*scorned* its shame."

Jesus "*endured* the cross" but "*scorned* its shame."

"Jesus puts his shoulder under the cross, but he sets his foot upon the shame."

(Charles Spurgeon)

Genesis 3:1-13

The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild
animals the Lord God had made. He said to the
woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from
any tree in the garden’?” 2 The woman said to the
serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree
that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not
touch it, or you will die.’”

Genesis 3:1-13

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the
woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it
your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,
knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that
the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to
the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she
took some and ate it. She also gave some to her
husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:1-13

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:1-13

9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”
10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was
afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And he said,
“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten
from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

Genesis 3:1-13

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—
she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”
13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this
you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent
deceived me, and I ate.”

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The sequence of shame: Brokenness, Shame, Hiding, Accusation

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Shame invites us to locate the entirety of blame outside of ourselves.





Luke 3:21-22

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was
baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was
opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in
bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from
heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am
well pleased.”

Crucifixion in the Roman world was never only an execution method.

It was also a communication method.



The one who died on the cross and was raised to “the right hand of the throne of God” is not just our Savior. He is also our “pioneer” and the one we “fix our eyes on.”

Shame tells each of us a story: “You are not enough. There is something wrong with you that is unavoidable and unfixable.”

Shame tells each of us a story: “You are not enough. There is something wrong with you that is unavoidable and unfixable.”

“We feel shame, and then feel shame for feeling shame. It begets itself. And, shamed people shame people.” (Curt Thompson)


THE CLOUD OF
WITNESSES

Closing Reflections

What shameful memory has been playing on repeat in your mind for years, attempting to hold you in its grip?

Closing Reflections

Can you thank Jesus, specifically, not just for enduring the cross but for despising its shame on your behalf—and becoming your pioneer?

Closing Reflections

Do you need to repent and seek forgiveness for any accusing or blaming that you've done due to your own shame?

Closing Reflections

In the presence of what trustworthy person/people can you go and expose your shame in order to enter into the process of healing?


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