



Dealing with Shame: John 8:1-11

1but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. **3** The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst **4** they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. **5** Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” **6** This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. **7** And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “**Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.**” **8** And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. **9** But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. **10** Jesus stood up and said to her, “**Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?**” **11** She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “**Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.**”]].

About This Week’s Message – February 13, 2011

This week I’m in Seattle and Tom Speicher is preaching on dealing with shame from John 8:1-11. Tom wrote this weeks homework.

One of the most difficult things in life is to experience personal shame. Like all other hurts in the human experience, Jesus was no stranger to shame. He experienced it supremely at Calvary. In our passage Jesus deals with the shame of a woman whose adultery was publically exposed and brings shame upon those who use her adultery to advance their own sinful agenda. — Tom

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of February 13, 2011.
Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

Getting Started

This week’s study is based on John 8:1-11.

Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Then read through John 8:1-11 a few times before moving on.

With your group, you might want to begin by reading the passage aloud. Maybe you would have someone read beginning in v. 1 and read it imagining a group of people around them, the whole church, hanging on every word of instruction for them from Paul.

The following questions are just introductory discussion starters. Remember that throughout you don’t have to cover every single question with your group. Let the Spirit lead!

1. How would you define shame? What are some emotions associated with it?
2. Think back to your childhood. Do you recall the first time you felt shame? Why do you think this is still in your memory bank? Did this experience change you?
3. We know shame can be negative and hurtful. Can shame ever be positive?

Digging Deeper

1. Following our John 8 passage, Jesus preached a sermon in which He said, “I am the Light of the world.” This produced a heated response from the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees. **Read John 8: 12-13, 48-59.** What are some reasons that Jesus being “the Light of the world” is such a good title for teaching us who He is? Why did the Pharisees attempt to stone Jesus to death? (v. 59)
2. **Read Matthew 22: 15 – 22.** People often try to shame those who oppose them. This is often done beneath a mask of “noble” intentions. We see this in business, personal relationships, and it seems to be the norm in modern politics. What was the “evil intent” of the Pharisees in this passage? What was their “noble intention?”
3. One authority writes of crucifixion: *“Not only was the cross the most painful of deaths, it was also the most debasing. The condemned man was stripped naked and left exposed in his agony. And often the Romans even denied burial to the victim, allowing his body to hang on the cross until it disintegrated. It is understandable that, according to Jewish law anyone who was crucified was considered cursed.”* What are some ways Jesus experienced shame at Calvary? (**See John 19: 25-27; Matthew 26: 49, 56b, 67-68, 74-75; 27: 27-31, 46**)
4. **Read Hebrews 10: 11-14.** Could “the joy before Him” have possibly been worth the shame? (**See 1 Corinthians 2: 9**)
5. What are some things the Bible calls “sin” and worthy of “shame” that are now deemed acceptable in our culture? (**See Romans 1: 18-32**) What are some things that must happen to this “shame” for “acceptable” transformation to take place?
6. Jesus died on the Cross so that our sin can be forgiven. This includes the shame that we struggle with. What are some passages of scripture that promise us freedom from the shame of our past?