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The Resurrection and our Shame

Gospel of John, Part LXXIV

John 21:15-19

Stuart W. Bryan

I. A Threefold Denial

II. Jesus Restores Peter

- A. A Threefold Restoration (15-17 cf. Mt 28:19; 1 Pet 5:4)

The significance of Jesus' questions is not to be found *in the different words* Jesus uses but in *the number of times* Jesus repeats the question: _____ (v. 17). We have Jesus' three questions, Peter's three responses, and then Jesus' three charges. The "threes" not only remind Peter of his threefold denial of Jesus but reinforce Jesus' restoration of Peter to apostolic ministry.

- B. A Sober Prophecy (18-19a cf. 2 Pet 1:14)

- C. A Renewed Calling (19b)

III. How the Resurrection Transforms our Shame

- A. The Pervasiveness of Shame

- 1. The Sense of Shame (cf. Gen 2:25; 3:7)

Ed Welch notes that while "*guilt lives in the courtroom where you stand before a judge, shame lives in the _____.*" It is associated with a sense of *nakedness, contamination, or, rejection*. In the beginning, we were free from the corrupting influence of sin and, hence, also free from shame.

- 2. The Source of Shame

- a. Committing sin or foolishness (Ex 32:25; Num 12:14; Dt 22:17; Pr 10:5; Dan 9:8; 1 Cor 6:5; Eph 5:12)

"The wise shall inherit glory, But _____ shall be the legacy of fools" (Prov 3:35). When we sin or act foolishly, we ought to feel a sense of shame.

- b. Suffering mistreatment (2 Sam 10:4-5; 2 Sam 13:13; Acts 5:41)

Sometimes we experience shame through no fault of our own but because we have suffered mistreatment or injury. Though the perpetrator is the one

who is _____ and who will be judged by God for his sin, yet we feel ashamed. Why is this? Because shame rubs off on others.

c. Living in a fallen world

Sometimes shame comes simply as a consequence of living in a fallen world.

B. The Consequences of Shame (cf. Ps 44:15)

Tragically, shame brings in its wake numerous consequences. Shame brings *pain*. This pain is amplified because shame also brings in its wake a sense of *isolation*. And, fearing this disapproval of others, we try in vain to *cover* or *hide* our shame.

C. The Cure for Shame

God alone can remove our shame. The reason that we experience shame is because we are estranged from God through our sin and corruption. If we would solve our shame, therefore, we must be reconciled to God.

1. Bring it out in the open

First, you must bring your shame out into the open. If your shame is a result of our own sin, then you must confess it to God and confess it to those you have wronged. If you feel shame as a victim, then you must still bring it into the presence of God and, often, seek the help of a godly, trusted counselor.

2. Nail it to the cross

Second, believe that Jesus died and rose again to cleanse your _____.

“In the Old Testament sacrifices were made (1) for sins committed and (2) for skin diseases, contact with a dead body, menstrual bleeding, being in a family that has been polluted by the behavior of a member, and many other reasons that were not one’s fault yet caused shame. This second category is not an occasion for confession (though we need no occasion for confession), but it is an occasion for cleansing and coming near, and this is found through blood.” Ed Welch

In His death and resurrection, Jesus bore, not only the guilt of our sin, but also our shame. *“I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting”* (Is 50:6 cf. Heb 12:2).

3. Begin to serve others

IV. Conclusion

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. (Dan 12:2-3)