**Easter Celebration**

**The End of Shame: Hebrews 12:1-3**

March 27, 2016

1. Easter conquers our shame.

A. Jesus bore our shame on the cross.

* v.2 *endured the cross, despising the shame*
* From being paraded through the streets, to being stripped of his clothes, to suffering before a watching crowd, and having his crime posted above his head, everything was calculated to shame the criminal.

B. Shame is the biggest problem people don’t realize they have.

* Johnny Depp: “Covering myself up in makeup, it's easier to look at someone else … You wake up in the morning, and you brush your teeth, and you're like, "Ugh, that [idiot] again. You're still here?"”
* Reese Witherspoon: “Only in very dark moments, moments of pure self-loathing, do I type my name into Google. You're fat, you're ugly, you're tired, you're worthless, you don't have a career anymore. It's just an affirmation of every horrible feeling about yourself.”
* World Food Bank Interview: "When I don't have any [food to bring my family], I borrow, mainly from neighbors and friends. I feel ashamed standing before my children when I have nothing to help feed the family.”
* Brené Brown: “Guilt: I'm sorry. I made a mistake. Shame: I'm sorry. I am a mistake. … Shame is highly, highly correlated with addiction, depression, violence, aggression, bullying, suicide, eating disorders.”

C. Jesus helps us despise the world’s shame.

* Isaiah 54:4 *Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.*
* Romans 10:11 *For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”*
* Martin Luther King Jr: “As the Klan drove by, [the African Americans] behaved as though they were watching a circus parade. Concealing the effort it cost them, many walked about as usual; some simply watched from their steps; a few waved at the passing cars. After a few blocks, the Klan, nonplussed, turned off into a side street and disappeared into the night.”

2. Easter promises us honour.

A. After despising the world’s shame, Jesus received heaven’s glory and honour.

* v.2 *seated at the right hand of the throne of God*
* The right hand was a place of honour and authority.
* Hebrews 2:9 *But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

B. By giving our loyalty to Jesus, we receive His honour.

* Rom 8:18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
* 1 Peter 1:7 *so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
* Seneca: “Honor is the good opinion of good people.”

3. Easter provides us rest.

A. After bearing our shame, Jesus sat down, His work finished.

* v.2 *seated at the right hand of the throne of God*
* John 19:30 *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

B. Through faith in Jesus, we can enter into His rest and need no longer strive to earn the world’s honour.

* Hebrews 11:24-26 *24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharoah’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

Q. Shame was called the biggest problem people don’t realize they have. What evidence of shame do you see in our culture? In your life?

Q. In your own words, what does it mean to “despise shame?” How can you do that in your life?

Q. Isaiah 54:4 promises believers they will not be ashamed. This doesn’t mean that people won’t try to shame them the way they shamed Jesus. But it does mean that we will never stand ashamed before God. How can God’s good opinion of us, because of Jesus, make a difference?

Q. What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to be seated at the right hand of the father after all the suffering and shame He endured? How does that parallel our hope?

Q. How do you understand the praise and glory and honour that will result from our faith in the final day? How does that help you deal with feelings of shame?

Q. In what sense is much of our busyness a result of our feelings of shame? How can Jesus’ finished work at the cross help us to rest?

**Notes:**