

CHRISTMAS INSIDE OUT - *FROM SHAME TO VALUE*

LUKE 1:6-7, 34, MATTHEW 1:3, 5-6, 19

- **In Biblical times, shame was often experienced by those who did not live up to societal expectations.**
- **Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous people, but they experienced the shame of being childless.**
- ***"****Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old."* (Luke 1:6-7)
- **Mary was a virgin, but she likely experienced shame because of the perception of others during her pregnancy.**
- *"Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? I am a virgin.'"* (Luke 1:34)
- **Joseph was a good man, but he experienced shame for his and Mary's situation.**
- *"Joseph… was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly."* (Matthew 1:19)
- **Shame was real in Biblical times just as it's real today.**
- ***How can I move from Shame to Value at Christmas?***

Moving From Shame to Value at Christmas Requires:

UNDERSTANDING THAT SHAME IS A SHARED <u>EXPERIENCE</u>

- *"At that moment their eyes were opened, and they (Adam and Eve) suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves."* (Genesis 3:7)
- **Shame was the first consequence of sin entering the world.**
- **After consuming the fruit, Adam and Eve scrambled for leaves to cover themselves as they experienced shame for the first time**
- **People still cover their shame with modern day "fig leaves."**
- **The possibility of shame exists for us all because everyone has sinned.**

- *"Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."* (Romans 3:23)
- ***What kinds of shame do I still struggle with at times?***

Moving From Shame to Value at Christmas Requires:

REMEMBERING THAT <u>JESUS</u> UNDERSTANDS OUR SHAME

- **Jesus Himself experienced shame.**
- *"He was despised and rejected-a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief."* (Isaiah 53:3)
- **Jesus was born into a family with a history of shame; the genealogy of Jesus includes four "shameful" women.**
- *"Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was **Tamar**)... Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was **Rahab**). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was **Ruth**)... David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was **Bathsheba**, the widow of Uriah)"* (Matthew 1:3, 5-6)
- **Tamar experienced shame because of what she had done. (Genesis 38)**
- **There is no shameful sin too big for God to forgive.**
- *"But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."* (1 John 1:9)
- **Rahab experienced shame because of her past. (Joshua 2)**
- **When Jesus forgives us of our sins, He no longer remembers our shame.**
- *"I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."* (Hebrews 8:12)
- **Ruth experienced shame because of who she was. (Ruth 1)**
- **Jesus doesn't condemn us for who we are, but offers us freedom from condemnation.**
- *"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."* (Romans 8:1)
- **Bathsheba experienced shame because of what had been done to her. (2 Samuel 11)**
- **Jesus understands what it's like to experience shame because of the sins of others - He was shamed on the cross so our shame could be removed.**
- *"Keeping our eyes of Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."* (Hebrews 12:2)
- **Even though Jesus came to remove our shame, He was born from a shameful family into a world that attempted to shame Him further.**
- ***In what ways has shame overshadowed the transforming power of the Lord in my life?***

Moving From Shame to Value at Christmas Requires:

KNOWING GOD CAN CHANGE OUR <u>CIRCUMSTANCES</u>

- **The good news of Christmas is that Jesus has come into the world to save us from our sin and shame.**
- *"He (Jesus) was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."* (Isaiah 53:5)
- **Jesus came to earth to make a way for us to be reunited with Him.**
- *"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* (Romans 5:8)
- **The birth of Jesus into humble circumstances was the ultimate answer to our shame.**
- *"God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children."* (Galatians 4:4-5)
- **Jesus could have been born in a palace, but instead He was born into a humble, poor family.**
- *"Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human."* (Philippians 2:6-7)
- *"God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him."* (John 3:17)
- **Jesus endured shame so we could have freedom from our shame and become valuable to God and to others.**
- *"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced.'"* (Romans 10:9-11)
- ***What's keeping me from taking the steps I need to take to overcome my guilt and shame?***