

The Gospel According to Jesus (Part 2)
Ashamed of the Gospel
Mark 8:35-9:1
July 14, 2013

Introduction

Last week, we looked at the gospel that Jesus preached and what He demanded from us. It is a hard gospel with such a high cost. Jesus said that we are to deny ourselves and take up the cross. He is essentially saying that we say no to self and say no to safety. Give up everything and be willing to die for Lord Jesus Christ. We have to want Him more than anything in this present world.

Matthew 10:34-39 *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Luke 14:26-27 *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*

The cost is high. Jesus does not mean that we hate our family, but that we will be willing to forsake our family in order to follow Jesus Christ. When we believe in Jesus and repent of our sins, our family can turn hostile to us and persecute us. We must be willing to forsake all of our ties to the family for the sake of Christ and the gospel.

Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Luke 13:24 *Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

To become a Christian, it is hard. It is hard to get through the narrow gate. These verses attack easy-believism with power and clarity. People are offered a choice—the narrow or the wide gate. Many choose the wide gate because it is easy and looks like a pathway to heaven.

Luke 13:25-28 *Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' But He will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ²⁶Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with You, and You taught in our streets.' ²⁷But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from Me, all you evildoers!' ²⁸There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.*

Many people will believe that they are on the way to heaven; however, Jesus will say, “I do not know you.” He exposes their willful ignorance and willful pride.

What is this gate? It is not a what, but a who.

John 10:9 *I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved.*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Jesus Christ is THE gate and the only one that leads to life. The gospel is exclusive of all claims to heaven, except through Jesus Christ.

When the disciples were with Jesus, they noticed that there were few followers—genuine followers, so they asked Jesus this question.

Luke 13:23 *Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?"*

Jesus gave the answer in **Luke 13:24**. If you want to get to heaven, you have to strive for it. Strive in Greek is “agonize” and it implies agonizing, intense struggle. This is the hatred of sin and refusing sin’s Siren call and grabbing to Christ. This word has a sense of violence in it. So when Jesus says strive to enter the narrow path, He is saying that the experience is violent and self-denying. It is a violent experience to get through the narrow gate. You do and cannot enter the kingdom of God by simply acting Christian. We cannot enter the kingdom of God by simply reaching out and taking the gift of God, by praying a sinner’s prayer, or by walking down the aisle, repeating the words of the preacher. This is what Peter means

1 Peter 4:18 *And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,*

To paraphrase Peter—It is hard for the righteous to be saved. Salvation is not easy. The gate is small and narrow. It is hard to find, and there is violence to the self in getting through it.

Why is it so hard to become a Christian? Shame.

Mark 8:35-9:1 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." ¹And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."*

I. Shame

- Feeling that guilt produces
- Evidence of remorse over one’s sin

Genesis 2:25 *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

Note: This was pre-Fall. No sin = no shame. Only with the presence of sin is there shame. When Adam and Eve sinned, they covered themselves and hid from God. This is a graphic illustration of shame. Exposed to the holiness of God, they covered up and hid.

- Recognizing types of shame
 - Ashamed of immoral acts
 - Usually happens when people get caught—murder, rape, etc
 - Sinners fight against this shame—they come up with ways to remove shame
 - Shameless acts are glorified
 - Pornography
 - Abortion
 - Greed
 - Self-will, promotion
 - We live in very shameless society
 - People do not feel ashamed of what others do
 - Ashamed of self-righteousness
 - Ashamed of thinking that I am good enough to get into heaven
 - Boating a religious veneer = loss of shame
 - Israel's religious leaders had no shame in their encounters with Christ
 - They hated His message and wanted to kill Him
 - They had no shame in killing Him

Matthew 27:3-5 *When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."*

- False religion of Judaism
 - Why were there no shame?
 - They did not worship God (as they thought they did)
 - They wrapped themselves with religious acts and believed that they were saved and doing God's will
- Adulterous and sinful generation
 - Does not mean that they were practicing adultery or idolatry
 - They were very moral and religious
 - Problem: they depended on their own self and their own accomplishments to obtain salvation
 - They refused to see themselves in comparison to the Holy God and see how wretched and vile a sinner they were
- Shame is good
 - It takes us to a place of repentance—a place of humility

Luke 5:8 *When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*

James 4:6 *Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

II. Ashamed of Christ and the Gospel

- Sinners reject the gospel because they refuse to be ashamed

- Refused to be self-humiliated
- Keep their life and their pleasures

2 Timothy 3:1-5 *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

Luke 12:16-20 *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'" ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'*

*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

- If you want to hang on to your sins, keep control of it—lose it eternally
- What can you do, buy, get in this world that will save your soul?
- Your best life is now—if you desire to save your life

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels

- When a sinner refuses Jesus' word and Him and keep his own life, then
- Jesus Christ ashamed of them
 - Saddest and scariest verse in Scripture

Matthew 7:21-23 *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

Isaiah 3:11 *Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him.*

- Christ Jesus as the Judge

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 *This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power*

- This will be the last thing the sinner will see—the King on His throne in judgment
- Son of Man from **Daniel 7**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 *I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. ¹³I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

III. God Is Not Ashamed Of Us

- The only people who will be saved are the people who are ashamed of themselves and not ashamed of Christ
 - Feeling ashamed is denying yourself, hating yourself
 - Feeling of guilt, knowing that judgment is deserved
 - Wanting to lose their life in order to save it
 - Forgiven sinner is the one who has a strong sense of shame
 - And it doesn't go away—you will have it all your life
- This is an invitation for those who are ashamed of themselves to turn to Christ
- This is a wonderful promise for those who do
 - God is not ashamed of them

Hebrews 2:11 *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

Hebrews 11:16 *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

Romans 9:33 *As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."*

Revelation 2:7 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

Revelation 2:11 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

Revelation 2:17 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*

Revelation 2:26-28 *To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'- just as I have received authority from My Father. ²⁸I will also give him the morning star.*

Revelation 3:5 *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Revelation 3:12 *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

Revelation 3:21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

- Promise of revelation
 - What did Jesus mean here?
 - Is He talking about His 2nd Coming?
 - Resurrection, Ascension?
 - No
 - He is talking about His Transfiguration in 6 days
 - He reveals Himself in power and glory—a preview of the future Kingdom!
 - He made a prophecy—He is telling them you can trust Me when I say this!

Are you ashamed of yourself or of Christ?