

The Unashamed Savior
Mark 14:27-31
July 20, 2014

Introduction

There are times in our Christian walk where we are ashamed of the gospel, where we are ashamed to be identified with Christ. There are times when we need to make a stand and declare the truth, but we hold back our hands and tongue and not say anything. We feel guilty and remember Jesus' own words:

Mark 8:38 *If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels.*

Does this mean that we will lose our salvation? Guilt overwhelms us and we lose heart. We experience shame. It is this shame that bewilders us and confounds us. We need to understand that there are two types of shame: unbeliever's shame and a believer's shame. I believe what Jesus says in **Mark 8:38** is the shame of unbelievers. It is the same shame that we find in Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 3:6-8 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

Why did they hide? Why did they cover themselves? They were ashamed of their open nakedness. They were ashamed of the evil thoughts that pervaded their mind that they have never thought before. They were ashamed of God because of their evil desires and thoughts. Being ashamed of God means that we hide ourselves from Him completely. For unbelievers, their shame is unbelief and permanent. It is irreversible and without remedy. Judas betrayed our Lord and in shame, hung himself, forever in hell. Our Lord will be ashamed to be identified with them.

Today we are looking at the passage where Jesus tells the disciples that they will be ashamed of Him. They will scatter and even deny that they know Him. However, that shame that leads to desertion is only temporary. The disciples abandoned Christ in the moment of weakness. They never thought for a moment to betray Him or to forsake Him utterly, but at the time of His arrest, they fled from Him to save their lives. They were ashamed to be identified with Him.

Believers might have that moments of weakness where we deny our Lord; however, I want us to look in this passage and see how much our Lord is not ashamed of us. He is the High Priest who knows our weaknesses and sympathizes with us, and He helps us to endure this brief moment of shame and endure to the end. We are going to see how our Lord is not ashamed of us, and He will deliver us from our shame!

Mark 14:27-28 *"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: " 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' 28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."*

- Perfect supernatural knowledge
 - You will all fall away tonight

Matthew 26:31a *Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away..."*

- He knows everything—including things that have not happened
- Fall away = scandalized; offended; defect
- Perfect knowledge of Scripture
 - Jesus quotes **Zechariah 13:7**
 - He knows from Scripture that He will be struck down and the disciples will flee

Zechariah 13:7 *"Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, against the Man who is close to Me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn My hand against the little ones."*

- Context: Zechariah talking about false prophets being destroyed
 - How destruction comes to be? Through the death of His Servant
 - His Servant = Messiah
 - Man = Mighty man; messianic prophecy
 - Jesus is afflicted by God
 - Result of God striking the Shepherd = they will be scattered
 - Last phrase—persecution of the church
- Promise of victory
 - Yes, you will be ashamed and scattered
 - Yet I will see you again
 - After resurrection
 - Jesus again knows that He will die and He will be raised again
 - He personally brings all the scattered sheep back together again
 - He recovered them all
 - Despite their shame, He is not ashamed of them!

Hebrews 2:9-12 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the Author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, "I will declare Your name to My brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing Your praises."*

- Unashamed
 - If Christ is unashamed of us, then we are to be unashamed of Him
 - We are weak but He is strong—The power of Christ is in us
 - We are to encourage one another not to be ashamed of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

2 Timothy 1:11-12

11 *And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.*

12 *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know Whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.*

2 Timothy 1:8 *So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me His prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,*

29 *Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."*

30 *"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown Me three times."*

31 *But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You." And all the others said the same.*

- Peter's (and all other apostles') pride
 - Proud confidence of self
 - He even says that others will fail but I will not
 - Very persistent pride
 - He insisted emphatically that he will not deny Jesus
- Jesus warns more than once of Peter's downfall
 - First warning
 - Hours earlier in the upper room
 - Very early in the Supper
 - Judas had just left

John 13:36-38 Simon Peter asked Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." **37** Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You." **38** Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times!"

- Second warning
 - This is sometime after the Lord's Supper
 - Still in the Upper Room

Luke 22:31-34 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." **33** But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death." **34** Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know Me."

Note: Satan is in the business of trying to shatter saving faith. He is in the business of trying to cause believers to lose hope. We are no match to stand toe-to-toe with Satan. We are far too weak to even overcome him. Our Lord gives Satan permission to attack Peter. Why? So that Peter can come back and tell people that in Christ, we are strong. In Christ, He is not ashamed of us!

- This is the third warning
 - They are outside to the path of the Garden of Gethsemane
- Our Lord is gracious to warn Peter
- Our response should be: Help me!

Conclusion

Our Lord is not ashamed of us! Our denial and defection is not permanent. We will be restored! The apostles were restored and commissioned. Even facing such terrible persecution, they never denied Jesus again!

Acts 5:41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Even Peter adds

1 Peter 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

How? What made all the difference? The Holy Spirit. Jesus sent to us the Holy Spirit who gives us power to overcome the world. It is by the Holy Spirit's power that we are kept to the end. It is by His power that we are faithful to the end. Be confident in our Savior's prayer and promises for us.

Mark 13:9-11 You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of Me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. **10** And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. **11** Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

If any of you are feeling guilty because you have denied our Lord, I have good news! Our Lord forgives and He restores us. Let us rise above ever being ashamed of Christ.