Cross Bearing - Shameful

Hebrews 12:1-3

Introduction:

1. Think of one of your most embarrassing times.
   1. Shame is one of the great motivations we have.
   2. It keeps many from doing what they would like to do.
   3. It affects the way we think, feel, act, live, dress, drive, eat.
2. Part of the pain that Jesus suffered on the cross was the shame, the embarrassment. Galatians 3:13
3. If we choose to follow Christ, we will
   1. Take up a cross. Luke 9:23
   2. Part of the consequences of that will be the shame and embarrassment that goes with it. John 15:20
4. How can I deal with the shame of the cross?
5. shame: “a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety in one’s own behavior or position or in the behavior or position of a closely associated person or group.” (*Webster’s 3rd New International Dictionary*)
6. Let’s observe Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-3
   1. He knew how not to be controlled by shame.
   2. This can help me to endure, not become weary and discouraged.
   3. And this can help me understand others who have become discouraged because they have been shamed, embarrassed.
7. NOTICE JESUS IN SHAMEFUL SITUATIONS; JESUS HAD FEELINGS. Hebrews 4:15
   1. Ridicule
      1. Glutton and winebibber, friend of tax collectors and sinners. Matthew 11:19
      2. Casts out devils by Beelzebub. Matthew 12:24
      3. Has a demon and is going crazy. John 10:20
   2. Association. Luke 7:36-50
   3. During mockery after trial and before crucifixion. Matthew 27:26-31
   4. During crucifixion. Matthew 27:35-44
8. II. HOW CAN I LEARN AND GROW NOT TO BE CONTROLLED BY SHAME?
   1. Jesus knew how to despise shame. Hebrews 12:1-3
      1. katarphroneo−“care nothing for, disregard, be unafraid of.” (Arndt & Gingrich, p. 421.)
      2. He was not deterred from doing the will of His Father because of the ridicule of others.
   2. It is easy for me to be ashamed in the Lord’s service.
      1. Acting according to my convictions is a group where others aren’t. John 12:42, 43
      2. Talking about Jesus to others. Romans 10:9-11
      3. Visiting.
      4. Laughing or crying in the presence of others. Romans 12:15
      5. Doing anything new, different, where I have not had previous, repeated, successful experiences.
   3. How can I grow?
      1. Be more concerned about God’s approval than man’s. Galatians 1:10; John 6:38
      2. Invest time, money, effort in handling God’s word wisely to overcome shame. 2 Timothy 2:15
      3. Develop, mature my faith in God and His promises. 2 Timothy 1:11, 12
      4. Become less dominated by material things. Hebrews 13:5, 6
         1. Paul learned contentment. Philippians 4:11, 12
         2. I heard a man tell of how good he felt when he had walked through a mall and it occurred to him that he had not seen one thing that he wanted.
      5. Learn to separate my worth from the appearance, conduct, and approval of those around me.
         1. I may be controlled by others when
            1. I am embarrassed and avoid those I think less than me.
            2. To feel better about myself, I need to be around or drop names of those I think greater than me.
            3. I avoid or feel inferior or worthless in the presence of those with more money, education, power, or prestige than me.
         2. Jesus was not a sinner, but He wasn’t ashamed to be seen with them. Mark 2:15-17
      6. Spend more time studying Jesus, how He dealt with potentially embarrassing situations, and imitate Him. Romans 15:1-3; 1 Peter 4:13-16

Conclusion:

1. I often have a dream.
   1. It is time for services to start.
   2. I have on my pajamas, or worse...or less.
   3. I don’t have a sermon prepared.
2. Thankfully I have never showed up for services in that condition; that would be very embarrassing.
3. It would be worse to show up for judgment in that condition. Matthew 22:9-14
4. I will choose to either suffer shame for Jesus as I bear my cross or I will be ashamed before Him at the judgment. Luke 9:23-26
5. How will I face the shame of cross bearing?
   1. Carving ears?
   2. Cutting out?
   3. Calling angels?
   4. Crucifixion?