

HOW TO CLEAR THE SHAME OF THE PAST

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:15-17

Introduction: Most people have experienced situations that might embarrass them or cause them to feel guilty, Peter is an example of this, because when he met Jesus after having denied him 3 times, he was full of shame and guilt and this was preventing him to be the same with the Lord. Many times the shame of having committed an error, leads us away from God's purposes, we must learn to leave the past behind, repent and receive the love of God that forgives us and the opportunity to go forward in life.

Interaction questions:

- ***What causes shame in a person's life?***
- ***Did Peter have reason to feel ashamed with Jesus? Why?***
- ***What can we do if we feel embarrassed by some mistake we made? Does God forgive any mistakes of our past?***

1. SHAME EXHALTS OUR SINS OVER THE CROSS

- Peter made a mistake and that mistake at some point was drawing him away from the cross of Calvary.
- Shame enslaves us to our past, wants to tie us to the mistakes we have made, and wants to place our sins higher than the forgiveness that Jesus offered on the cross.
- If we confess our sins God forgives us, so we must not let the shame of the past steal from us God's forgiveness. 1 John 1:8-9

2. SHAME MAKES US LOSE OUR VISION

- a. For a moment Peter lost sight of the big calling the Master had for him, wanted to return to pursue what he was doing before following him. Fishing. John 21:2-3
- b. People that feel guilty usually wants to quit everything. A failure would have us forget God's purposes.
- c. When someone loses God's vision they want to return to where they were before,

they will quit serving and attending church because of an offense people will go back and won't fulfill their purpose and God won't support them.

3. SHAME MAKES BAD DECISIONS.

- Peter even after knowing that Jesus had risen, wanted to return to his fishing, even though he already knew he was devoted to fish for men. He was about to make a bad decision. John 21:2-3
- Shame makes us move away from God's plan for our lives, brings us back to the past, returns us to do things that no longer suit us, makes us stand aside and not receive God's blessings.
- The Lord will not cast off Peter for denying him, on the contrary showed him mercy and empowered him to do His will here on earth.

4. HOW TO BE FREE OF SHAME?

- Admit and confess that you have failed. Without arguing 1 John 1:8-9
- Receive Christ's forgiveness. Remember he already paid for our shame. We must receive forgiveness not because we are perfect, but because he is good.
- Forgive yourself. Not only receive forgiveness, but forgive yourself for your past mistakes, and learn to get up and move on.
- Focus in the future. Fil. 3:13. Focus on pleasing God, to right the wrongs of the past, being a better person today and in the future, as Peter did, leave the past and dedicated to helping many to proclaim the gospel.

Conclusion:

Do not let shame or guilt delay God's plans for our lives, if we sin we have an advocate with the Father and the one who confesses and forsakes his sins reaches mercy. If you are carrying guilt and shame, hand your burden to the Lord Jesus Christ today making the following prayer from your heart.

Sinner's prayer

*Lord Jesus I recognize that I've sin
and that you died for me. Today I
repent and I ask for forgiveness. I
give you my life and my heart so you
can be my Lord and my Savior.
Amen*

Announcements:

- Mother's day service: May 11
- 3 days of power retreat: May 16-18
- May 23-25 10th Anniversary Celebration of Aguilas CFC name with special guests.