

1. As we continue talking today about our hear of Jubilee, one of the things that Jubilee meant for the people of the nation of Israel was freedom.
2. Every 50 years, people who had sold themselves as servants to another person were granted their freedom, and they were allowed to go back to living in freedom.
3. Not only do I believe God wants to grant freedom to every single one of us, but I am seeing on a daily basis God freeing people from things that have been holding them back for years.
4. This morning I want to talk to you about freedom from shame.

TEXT: **Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

TITLE: **No shame.**

INTRO:

1. The first thing I want to point out today is that we need to know that Satan is a dealer in shame.
2. Shame is something that he will try and throw on our shoulders for the purpose of robbing us of the freedom that God desires for our lives.
3. But God is not a God of shame. God is a God of honor.
4. **Shame: a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behavior:**
5. When we fail and sin, Satan is not content with the fact that we failed, he also wants to humiliate us in our failure. He wants to cause us painful distress on top of the failure.
6. But as I said, God on the other hand doesn't deal in shame. God deals in honor.
7. You see, honor is the opposite of shame. **Honor: high respect; great esteem:**
8. We know that God is a God of honor because of the story of the woman caught in adultery in John chapter 8.

9. A group of religious leaders brought a woman to Jesus who had been caught in the very act of adultery. Having relations with someone who she was not married to.
10. Their main goal was to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against him, and they were willing to shame this woman in the process to accomplish their goal.
11. But Jesus refused to join in on shaming this woman. To be clear, she was caught in the act. Guilt had already been proven.
12. But Jesus did not humiliate her, and he did not cause her more pain or more distress. Instead, after everyone walked away, what he did was he lovingly said to her... John 8:10-11 "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."
13. God has no desire to shame you. Ever. His desire is to treat you with honor and respect and love. It is Satan who loves to dump shame and humiliation and painful distress on us.
14. Now, to be clear, God will allow the Holy Spirit to bring feelings of guilt when we sin or fail. But that guilt is meant to be internal, and not meant to humiliate us in front of others.
15. And the purpose of that guilt is redemptive. God allows that guilt so we will put aside what caused our guilt, and turn back to Him.
16. But guilt and shame are not the same thing.
17. So, let's talk first about how the enemy tries to dump shame on our lives in order to rob our freedom.

Sources of shame.

1. As we have already said, one of the tools the enemy uses to bring shame is our past sins and our failures.
2. Where God's desire is for us to turn away from past sins and failures so that we can be restored back to right relationship with Him, Satan will overwhelm us with our past sins and failures, and add a dose of shame into the mix so that we will be afraid to turn back to right relationship with the Lord.
3. And the reason is simple. When we have sinned or failed, the only source of forgiveness and freedom is the lord Jesus Christ.

4. And if Satan can prevent us from running back to Jesus for forgiveness, for fear of shame, then we will stay chained to those past failures and never be able to progress and grow in our faith. (illustration of chain)
5. Adam and Eve hid from God.
6. But we need to know that past sins and failures are not the only tool Satan uses to overwhelm us with shame.
7. To prove how vile and evil and ruthless Satan is, he will even use the failures of others against us to try and dump shame on us.
8. Satan will attempt to use the hurts that others have caused us, often times hurts that we neither desired, or could even control, and yet he will attempt to make us feel shame for something we didn't even do.
9. One of the things that survivors of abuse often suffer with is shame.
10. That abuse survivor did nothing wrong. They did not hurt themselves. They did not want the other person to hurt them.
11. They did not deserve the hurt. And yet the lying dog of a devil will dump shame on them, he will dump painful humiliation on them and try and convince them it was all their fault that they got hurt in the first place.
12. But it's a lie. And if we believe the lie, not only will we be chained to shame, but the chains will become locked in place. (illustrate lock and key)
13. And the enemy will lie further and tell us that there is no key to being free from this painful shame that we are plagued with. That we have to just live with it.
14. But I want to be clear this morning. You do not have to just live with it. Shame may be a part of your past and it may be tormenting you in your present, but I want you to know that shame does not have to be a part of your future.
15. And the reason why shame doesn't have to be a part of your future is because Jesus has already made provision for that shame to be removed from your life.
16. Jesus, by his suffering and dying on the cross for our sins, has already provided the solution and the key for us to be free of shame.
17. So, let's talk next about...

How Jesus frees us from shame.

1. Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
2. For the sake of time this morning, I will not read to you Hebrews chapter 11. But you need to know that the victory that is provided in chapter 12 is directly related to the people described in chapter 11.
3. In chapter 11, the writer of Hebrews names multiple people from the bible who trusted and put their faith in God.
4. Hebrews 11 has been called the great faith chapter of the bible.
5. He names all these people who put their faith in God. All of them in the midst of hardship and failure and sin and difficulty.
6. And then in chapter 12 verse one he refers to all of the people he mentioned in chapter 11 as a great cloud of witnesses.
7. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.
8. Therefore, since we are surrounded by a large group of people who have lived before and are already in heaven.
9. Who are cheering for us from heaven and believing in us that we can overcome by faith as well.
10. Where shame says, you are surrounded by a bunch of people who think the worst of you and who don't like you.
11. Where shame says, if people knew the real you. If they knew all the sins and failures that are in your past, they would reject you.
12. Faith says, the truth is you are living your life with a cheering section who is eager to see you succeed and not fail.
13. You are surrounded by heavenly beings who are like rabid fans in a stadium, screaming their heads off, worked up in a frenzy all because they want to see you be victorious.
14. So, the writer of Hebrews says, throw off all those things that are hindering you. The sin and shame that trips us up and traps us into bondage, cast them aside and keep running the race of your life.
15. Because the one standing at the finish line of this race of your life is none other than Jesus. And Jesus already has in hand the victory that

is yours.

Victory in Jesus.

1. Now let's look at what this victory over shame looks like.
2. Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3. If we want to be free from shame, the only way to be free is to fix our eyes on Jesus. Because he and he alone is he one who has already purchased our freedom from shame.
4. How did he purchase our freedom from shame?
5. Verse two says, for the joy set before him, he endured the cross.
6. Now, on the surface that makes no sense. How could the writer of Hebrews say that Jesus got joy from enduring the most horrific, painful, humiliating form of torture and death that existed?
7. What brought Him joy was not the pain and suffering, what brought him joy was the freedom that he bought for us by his suffering. And one of those areas of freedom is freedom from shame.
8. To understand how Jesus bought our freedom from shame on the cross, we need to know that being crucified on a cross in this way was one of the most shameful forms of death in the history of the world.
9. It was worse than being decapitated, being killed by wild animals or being burned alive.
10. Those forms of death were fairly quick. Crucifixion on a cross was slow and painful. It took hours and sometimes days.
11. It was also humiliating because the Roman soldiers who did the crucifying would ruthlessly torment and humiliate and make fun of their victim.
12. In Jesus' case this painful humiliation took place in front of at least 100,000 people, all who believed that Jesus must be guilty.
13. It was an extremely shameful experience.
14. But for Jesus it was even worse. Because by his death on the cross, Jesus took on himself all of the shame that should have been ours.
15. All of the shame that should have come our way as a result of our

failures and sins, Jesus took on himself.

16. So how can we be free from shame? Because by his death on the cross, Jesus was declaring to every single person who would ever believe in Him, I don't want you to carry shame. I don't want shame to be a part of your life.
17. I am going to willingly take all of your shame. And rather than people thinking badly of you, I will allow them to think badly of me.
18. Rather than you suffering humiliation, I will take on that humiliation so that you can be free from all shame.
19. But not only that, on the cross, Jesus defeated the very Satan who would try and shackle us with shame. Watch how he did it.
20. **Hebrews 12:2** For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame,
21. So, picture this with me. Jesus is on the cross. About 100,000 people are gathered around. All of them believe Jesus is guilty of a crime that deserves death.
22. At the foot of the cross are the soldiers who mock him and make fun of him and do everything in their power to humiliate him.
23. Then you have Jesus, carrying the weight of all our shame. All of the shame that should have been ours was on his shoulders.
24. And then on top of that, I believe in hell they were having a party.
25. All the demons of hell were dancing around rejoicing. We got him. We killed him. We defeated him. The people of earth will never be free again.
26. With all of that shame squarely directed at Jesus, he didn't just endure the shame, he did something very specific with that shame.
27. The writer of Hebrews says that Jesus scorned that shame.
28. That word scorn is an interesting little word that we rarely use. **Scorn: open dislike and disrespect or mockery often mixed with indignation.**
29. On the cross, Jesus indignantly disrespected that shame, and he mocked that shame.
30. On the cross Jesus humiliated that shame. In essence, while he hung on the cross, **Jesus shamed shame.**
31. Jesus took all that shame that should have been ours and he said

shame on you shame. Shame, you are worthless, and you are no good.

32. On the cross, Jesus turned shame around on itself, and threw shame right back into shames face.
33. On the cross, Jesus said to Satan. Shame on you Satan for dumping a load of shame on my people, those who believe in me.
34. Shame on you Satan that you thought you could chain and bind with shame the very people that I love and died for.
35. Through Jesus death on the cross, Jesus took the key called freedom (illustrate) and he unlocked all of that shame and he threw away the chains and he declared, you don't have to live with shame.
36. You have been set free.

Conclusion: Look at Teresa.

1. And I am here to declare to you today that you don't have to leave this place today carrying one ounce of shame.
2. If you are here and you have accepted Jesus as your savior, then the price for your shame has been paid.
3. The price for your freedom has been paid.
4. If you are here today and you haven't accepted Jesus as your savior, you can receive him today and you too can be free of shame.
5. We began the service today with this verse of scripture. **Romans 8:1-2**
Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.
6. The gift that Jesus bought and paid for by giving his life on the cross is the gift of freedom.
7. Because of what Jesus has done and by your acceptance of what he has done, you are not bound by shame, you are free.
8. Today as we close, I am going to ask you to believe with me that by the power of the cross, we too can shame shame.
9. Would you worship the Lord with me this morning that the price for our shame has been paid.
10. Salvation call.
11. Are you here today and the enemy has been trying to dump a load

of shame on you? Will you respond in just a moment by stepping out of your seat and coming to the front.

12. When you get up here, some people who love you and are believing with you for freedom are going to surround you like a great cloud of witnesses.
13. Invite people to come forward.
14. Ask those who accepted Jesus to come with the others.
15. Declare. Jesus, I believe you have paid the price so I can be free from shame.
16. I can't do anything to get rid of my shame, but I don't have to. All I have to do is receive what you have already done for me.