

EVER BEEN ASHAMED OF JESUS?

Luke 9:26

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Ever been ashamed of something you did or said? What about being ashamed of someone you know real well, like a family member or a close friend? Everyone probably has been ashamed at one time or other but what about being ashamed of Jesus? "Oh, no" is the quick reply, but think about it. People were ashamed of Jesus when He was living among them as they were ashamed of their local boy, grown into manhood making such claims as to being the Son of God. However that was then and today is today, why should anyone be ashamed of Jesus today? He did what He did and the world has benefited beyond measure, eternal life, Heaven, the Holy Spirit, reigning this very moment beside God, the Father, interceding for those who believe in Him. Who in their right mind could be ashamed of Jesus today? Obviously anyone who is ashamed of Jesus is NOT an unbeliever for who can be ashamed of what they don't care about? Those who are ashamed of Jesus credit Jesus' resurrection, that He is alive in human hearts today, so how can someone who believes about/in Jesus possibly be ashamed of Jesus?

I. WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT SOMEONE IS ASHAMED OF JESUS?

1. A sign of being ashamed is to not want to be identified with Him in public.
 - Who wants to be seen in public with someone whom he/she is ashamed of?
 - Nobody wants to be heard or seen openly with anybody who has made one ashamed of him/her.
 - However in secret one might be around the one he/she is ashamed of, like in prayer, it's alright to be around Jesus.
 - Also in a crowd, such as a church congregation, no one would notice that one is ashamed of someone, like perhaps Jesus.
 - If one honors Jesus in public, then others will see a friendship and those who are ashamed of Jesus will not want to be identified with Him in public.
2. A second sign of being ashamed is to be silent.
 - Every child will babble, talk and carry on all day about this and that, but if he/she does something which he/she is ashamed of, silence, not a word about that.
 - A son or daughter that brings disgrace to the family is never mentioned in public conversations.
 - There comes to every Christian when he/she needs to confess sins but no such confession comes out but only silence for one's silence is a sign of shame.
3. A third sign of shame is in avoidance.
 - Instinctively one avoids that which he/she is ashamed of.
 - Some failure in one's life is not talked about, not mentioned, but avoided at all costs.
 - Places are avoided because of some shameful thing that happened.
 - What about Jesus? How many avoid Him? To avoid being with, around and talking about Jesus is proof of being ashamed of Jesus.

II. WHERE DOES BEING ASHAMED OF JESUS COME FROM?

1. Sometimes people are ashamed of Jesus because of fear.
 - Remember Nicodemus? He came to Jesus by night because he feared the Jews, yet he deeply admired the Lord Jesus but was afraid others would find out, therefore he was ashamed to be seen with Jesus.
 - The most common commandment in the Bible is "...**FEAR NOT!**..."
 - Who is another "Nicodemus?" Afraid that one's business might suffer, afraid for the welfare of one's family if word got out that there was an interest in Jesus?
 - So often tongues are tied and lips are silenced, confession of belief in Jesus is stifled because of the fear that others might find out one's real feelings about Jesus.
 - Fear causes one to be ashamed of Jesus.

2. There is social pressure that causes one to be ashamed of Jesus.
 - Remember Peter in the courtyard?
 - He loved Jesus but didn't want to be identified with Him that night when Jesus was being tried.
 - Peter was easily influenced and since Jesus was not being accepted, he became ashamed of being identified with Jesus.
 - Who is like Simon Peter? Who deny Jesus because of social pressure? Who is silent and afraid to speak out because of those around him/her?
 - In crowded places, malls, shops, stores, offices, games, social gatherings, who dares to speak out for Jesus, who remains silent but is a believer?
 - Does not people make one ashamed of Jesus?

3. Another reason of being ashamed is intellectual pride.
 - Many are ashamed of Jesus because He was/is such a simple man.
 - Jesus' message is so plain that the illiterate can understand and live by it and die by it.
 - Jesus had no doctor's degree, He didn't even go to high school or college.
 - There is nothing so different to today's world of pride than the life, words and sacrifice of Jesus.
 - It doesn't take an intellectual to understand what Jesus did is doing and will do, therefore human pride can cause one to be ashamed of Jesus.

III. THE CURE FOR BEING ASHAMED OF JESUS

1. One thing that brings a cure of being ashamed of Jesus is to finally realize just WHO Jesus is.
 - Who is anybody you know? Doctor, Teacher, Minister, Professor, Scientist, Theologian, Chemist, Surgeon, Astronaut, etc?
 - Then WHO is Jesus Christ? King of Kings, immortal, eternal, Wonderful, Mighty God, Counselor, Savior.
 - Add it up! WHO could ever be ashamed of someone like Jesus?

2. Another thing that brings a cure of being ashamed of Jesus is to realize what all He has done for YOU.
 - When a person finally realizes all that Jesus has done for him/her, there is just not way to be ashamed of Him - EVER!
 - Jesus loved us and He gave Himself for us, He has saved us and called us and has made us heirs of heaven.
 - Think about it! Realize it!
 - Once realization of what all Jesus has done for believers, one's heart will sing forever about the wonderfulness of Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. Everyone knows about being ashamed of someone and then of being ashamed of one's own self.
2. Very few, if any would ever admit of being ashamed of Jesus, yet by their actions, many are secretly and sadly, openly ashamed of HIM.
3. Selfishness, Pride, Guilt, outside pressure are just some of the influences that cause a person to be quiet about Jesus in public and therefore be ashamed to be identified with Jesus in public.
4. Christian, take a good look at what Jesus has done for YOU, what Jesus is doing for YOU and will in the future do for YOU. Isn't that something to feel good about? Isn't that something to tell others about?
5. Christian, don't ever be ashamed of Jesus and if your heart/conscience tells you that you are or that you have been ashamed, get things straight and stand up and speak out for the Lord Jesus who did so for YOU.