

## Never Be Ashamed!

Mark 8:36-38

**How do we avoid being biblical ashamed of Jesus and his message so we do not fall into eternal destruction?**

**Mark 8:** <sup>36</sup> *For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

Most of us know what it means to be ASHAMED. This sense of shame is a strategy the devil will try to use on you when it comes to Jesus.

**Ephesians 6:12** says, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”.*

**Jesus knows how to address this internal conflict.** When Jesus talks about us being ashamed of Him, He is not talking about those little moments when you are afraid to speak of for Jesus or are intimidated by others regarding your relationship with Him. He is talking about something deeper, much deeper.

Look at what Jesus says in *Mark 8:34-38*, *“Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? <sup>37</sup> Is anything worth more than your soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (NLT).*

**Let’s make sure we are understanding what Jesus is actually saying here. “Ashamed” means to be reluctant through fear of humiliation. This is another word for “unbelief.”**

**Key Idea:** This “ashamed” is not a one-time event, but a way of life.

*Philippians 3:19* which says, *“Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things” (CSB).*



Peter denied Jesus three times! Was He embarrassed to be associated with Jesus? Yes! But he was not **“ashamed”** of Jesus in the way Jesus is talking about in Mark 8. The **“ashamed”** in Mark 8 deals with a person’s heart who has rejected Jesus outright. The denial of Jesus by Peter is done by someone who actually loves Jesus, but was afraid of what might happen to him with the guards standing



So Jesus goes on to say, **“If anyone is ashamed of me and my message.”**

**FIRST, JESUS MENTIONS THE PROBLEM OF BEING ASHAMED OF HIM.**

To be ashamed of someone is to be embarrassed by them and to be embarrassed to be associated with

Rev. Thomas Parrish

Items in **RED** are prayer focuses for the week.

them. So the idea of Jesus being the Son of God, the Messiah, God in the flesh, The Lamb of God or the Savior of the world is strange, odd, and embarrassing to you....to the point that you reject (ignore) Jesus for who He really is.

Then, on that final day when He returns, Jesus has no alternative but to reject you. Paul told Timothy, *“If we deny him, he will deny us” (2 Timothy 2:12, NLT).*

**This represents the greatest danger any church goer can face. We can all run the danger of not knowing what we have in Jesus, what he means, what he did until.....**

We have become indifferent to Jesus for daily living. We go through the motions, sing the songs, say the creed but we have become indifferent. We coast through life ignoring him instead of pursuing him with our whole being. Indifference to Jesus is just the same as being ashamed.

**SECONDLY, JESUS MENTIONS BEING ASHAMED OF HIS “MESSAGE.”**

The first thing Jesus says in Mark is found in Mark 1:15 where Jesus says, *“The time promised by God has come at last! The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”* (NLT). The message of Jesus deals with repenting of your sins and believing in the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ.

**Jesus is saying, “If you find my message unacceptable and reject it, then when I return I will have no alternative but to find you unacceptable and reject you.”**

One of the major problems Christianity has always faced is **Syncretism**. *Syncretism is the process by which aspects of one religion are assimilated into, or blended with, another religion/belief/philosophy. This leads to fundamental changes in all beliefs.*

**In the Old Testament and New Testament, God was deeply concerned with the pressure and temptation toward syncretism.** The church fathers not only spread the gospel but labored to protect its integrity. Docetism, Montanism, Universalism, Gnosticism, and **39 other heresies!**

**Every generation of Christians faces the temptation of syncretism.** The biggest enemy of Jesus and his message is always US!

**5 Things Jesus NEVER said that people somehow believe He said that put the focus back on them: 1) Follow your heart. 2) Live your own truth. 3) Believe in yourself. 4) Be true to yourself. 5) Happiness is all that matters.**

The Bible calls you and me to use Wisdom: *What is Biblical Wisdom?*

*“Permitting the Bible to speak for itself and doing what it says compared to reading into the Bible my beliefs and seeking the things I want.”*

**So what do we do?**

**Spend your life pursuing Jesus so that you know him in heart, mind, soul and body. When you fail, repent and start again.  
Put his message into life and make it the highest priority of truth even though the world wants to ignore his word. When you fail, repent and start again.**

**While we can be ashamed of many things confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior and living His message is nothing to be ashamed of!**

Rev. Thomas Parrish

Items in **RED** are prayer focuses for the week.