

ASHAMED OF JESUS

Mark 8:38

INTRODUCTION

- In recent weeks we have witnessed the spectacle of rugby player, Israel Folau, being persecuted for merely expressing the Christian faith
- Some have supported him, but others who should have been commending him have criticised him
- Christians used to see opposition from the world as a privilege and honour
- Professing Christians today seek to avoid any worldly opposition at all costs.
- These people are ashamed of Jesus and his words
- Before the fall, there was no shame
- Where there is no sin, there is no guilt and there is no cause for man to be ashamed before God (Genesis 2:25)
- But when Adam and Eve sinned, they instinctively hid themselves from God due to the guilt they felt and the shame for their sin (Genesis 3:8)
- Shame should progress to a self-loathing and self-abhorrence, which leads to a godly sorrow and contrition for sin, which worketh true repentance unto God (Ezra 9:6)
- But among mankind there is little shame over sin (Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15; 8:12; Zephaniah 3:5)
- On the one hand, the ungodly man *is not* ashamed of himself, but on the other hand, he *is* ashamed of Jesus Christ
- In verses 34-38 the Lord Jesus teaches on what it requires to be one of his followers
- There were multitudes (8:1) who followed him about Galilee, many of them for selfish reasons, so Christ confronts these hangers-on with some

harsh realities about what his true disciples are called to – self-denial, suffering and laying down one’s life

- Verse 38 sums up negatively the essence of Christianity – allegiance to Jesus Christ, and that heart-allegiance evidenced by an outward confession of him before men

I. SINFUL MAN ASHAMED OF THE SAVIOUR IN THIS CORRUPT GENERATION

A. The people who are ashamed

1. The unrepentant

- a. They love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil (John 3:19)
- b. They love sinful pleasures more than God (2 Timothy 3:4)

2. The self-righteous

- a. Most people proclaim their own goodness (Proverbs 20:6)
- b. These people may well regard themselves as Christians, but their reliance for justification is not on Jesus Christ, but on their own good works.
- c. They have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5)

3. The indifferent

- a. Those who do not decide for Christ are deciding against him (Matthew 12:30)
- b. No man can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)

4. Apostates

- a. This does not refer to Christians who at times have failed to stand up for the Lord

- b. Peter shows us that in times of temptation, a believer may deny the Lord, yet be restored (Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:15-19)
- c. This is fixed and settled denial that persistently and finally rejects Christ (2 Timothy 4:10)

B. The objects of shame

- 1. Christ
- 2. Christ's words

C. The place of shame

- 1. Adulterous and sinful generation
 - a. This specifically applies to the generation in which Christ lived (Matthew 12:39)
 - b. Yet it applies to this present evil world (Galatians 1:4)
- 2. The world is adulterous both spiritually and morally
 - a. The affections of mankind are alienated from their Creator (Genesis 6:5; Romans 3:18)
 - b. The deeds of mankind are altogether impure, satisfying their carnal flesh
- 3. Those who feel shame before such a wicked generation demonstrate their esteem, respect and honour towards them

II. THE SON OF MAN ASHAMED OF THE SCORNER IN HIS COMING GLORY

A. The Second Coming of Christ

- 1. It is certain – *when* he cometh
- 2. It will be with great power and glory (Mark 13:26)
- 3. It will be to judge and reign

- B. He will be ashamed of many in that day
1. Those who deny him here, will be denied by him hereafter (Matthew 10:33; Luke 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:12)
 2. They will suffer everlasting shame in hell (Daniel 12:2)
 3. This will be the awful fate of the apostate (Hebrews 10:26-31)

CONCLUSION

1. Can you say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"? (Romans 1:16)
2. This world wants us to be ashamed of the Lord Jesus
3. You will either be ashamed of yourself, or ashamed of Christ
4. Those who fear man more than God are not worthy of the kingdom (Revelation 21:8)
5. Mark 8:34-37 shows the characteristics of those who will not be ashamed of Christ:
 - ✓ Deny self
 - ✓ Take up the cross
 - ✓ Follow Christ
 - ✓ Surrendered life
 - ✓ Value the soul
6. Fear God, not man (Matthew 10:28)
7. Be heavenly minded, not earthly minded (Colossians 3:1-3)
8. Love Christ even more than your life (Luke 14:26; Acts 20:24; 21:13; Revelation 12:11)
9. Eliminate pride by humbling yourself
10. Rely on the Lord to give courage and boldness to stand for him (Daniel 3:24-25; Matthew 28:20; John 14:18)
11. May we be not be ashamed at his coming (1 John 2:28), that he may not be ashamed to call us brethren (Hebrews 2:11)