

LIVING A LIFE THAT WILL OUTLIVE YOU - PT 2

Scripture used: Joshua 5:7-9 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

Just as Ford's motto is "Built to last", so we as Christians have the same instinct. John 3:16 reminds us that we are built for eternity. God intends for us to be part of His greater story. But today's text shows us one area that God needs to deal with in order for us to move forward with godly confidence. In Joshua 3 and 4, the Israelites experienced "wow" moments from God's miracles. Even in Joshua 5, their enemies were caught in fear. The Israelites had the perfect setup to claim God's promises, but even then God paused the Israelites to help them deal with their hidden shame by having them go through the circumcision ritual and reminding them that their identity is greater than their shame. If God found it so important to deal with shame in the Israelites, how much more could our shame be preventing us from moving forward in the way that God intends?

KEY POINTS

The Big Idea: What does it mean to make my mark in life?

- 1) Shame will steal your destiny. - Shame is a universal struggle. And though we all have shame, we don't all deal with shame. Like the men who entered the promise land with Joshua, though they were not slaves themselves, they identified themselves as such. So, even though God positioned them with the means to move forward, they still identified themselves as being an inadequate people.
How do we fill in the statement, "I am never _____ enough"? We all have blanks in our lives. Whether it is because of shame from physical, economical, social, or even at times mental limitations, the shame that we carry undermines our destiny.
- 2) God's message with circumcision is "You are enough for me!" - God knew that He first needed to deal with the Israelite's shame in order for them to be able to have a new path forward. Circumcision was God's mark upon them to remind them that they were not in the lineage of slavery but of Abraham, God's chosen people. Slavery, or their shame, was merely a chapter in the greater story of God.
In the same way, we need to be marked by God. His mark reminds us that God is enough for me! (Eph 1:4). Whatever shame we may have had is merely a chapter in the greater story God is using our lives to write. And when we discover that we are enough in God, we experience freedom from our shame and our need to prove anything to anyone.
- 3) We need to choose God's grace. - In order to experience freedom from shame, there HAS to be a cutting. Brene Brown shares that "nobody is shame resistant, but we can become shame resilient." Here's how:
 - a. Identify your shame attendant. - We all have a voice of shame, whether within ourselves or even within the people around us, that we need to identify. This is important because we need to be able to distinguish these voices from the voice of truth coming from God.
 - b. Identify the source of your shame. - We need to know and identify what our shame is in order to deal with it rather than try to hide or run from it.
 - c. Own it, share it, and accept it! - Once we have identified and acknowledged the source of our shame, we should find those people who have earned our trust to be able to share it freely, so that we can be set free from our shame. Then accept not just the shame, but more importantly the fact that you are accepted by God!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are areas of shame in our lives that may have originated from our childhood? How much has this shaped the way we identify ourselves or identify our value?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - I am never _____ enough. How do you fill in this blank? If possible, share how your shame may be preventing you from living out the legacy God intends for you.
- 3) **DO** - Take time this week to identify your hidden shame or your shame attendants. Pray for God to reveal one person in your life who has earned your trust to be able to share your shame freely and when you are ready, take a step of faith, and work towards choosing God's grace!