



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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SHAME-COVENANT-RESTORATION

Series preached on Sunday, September 11 and 18, 2022

In January, the Holy Spirit, spoke to me and said that 2022 was the year of restoration. God confirmed it through Bill Johnson.

You know that I always struggle saying things specifically like that, because too often people hear it and wait...instead of hearing it and act, therefore, they don't see the year of restoration and get hard-hearted!

We always need to understand that words for the New Year are usually telling us that we have entered into a time period of something. It is up to us to enjoy that something!

ILLUSTRATION: You can walk into a restaurant and walk out hungry. You must take advantage of that time that you are in the building.

2022 is a year of restoration... I believe it released a time period that goes BIGGER than just 365 days...but an open window of restoration.

Some will enjoy it and some will not.

BELOVED: I want to take this time to remind us of what God has spoken to us.

- * Are you seeing things restored in your life?
- * Are you still ACTIVELY believing for restoration over things that you have lost?
- * Are you struggling?

Joel 2:23-27 (prophecy of the end time)

23 Be glad then, **ye children of Zion**, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

FIRST KEY for END TIMES: Be glad and rejoice!

SECOND KEY: Understand your righteousness! Position in Christ.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

UNDERSTAND: Increase will be a MAJOR point of the end times. Increase of supply (finances and property) and increase of the spirit.

We are NOT going out with low fuel and barely getting by...see verse 28, 29...we will go out with the wealth of the wicked and MORE THAN ENOUGH.

25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

BELOVED: It is time for restoration!

26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

NOTICE: Part of restoration is: 1.) eating in plenty, 2.) Satisfied, 3.) Wondrous dealings (marvelous, extraordinary, beyond).

KEY POINT TODAY: Shame will be eradicated!

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

SECOND MENTION: No shame in restoration!

I want to set our focus on the key for RESTORATION to happen...NO SHAME!

- * Shame is an enemy to the child of God.
- * Shame is a hindrance to restoration and the blessings that come from restoration.
- * Shame will keep you stuck in the life of defeat and discouragement!

Genesis 2:25 – “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

NOTE: They lived in abundance...no shame!

Shame entered in chapter 3 and they lost the abundance!

Shame is a thief.

Isaiah 50:7 – “For the **Lord GOD will help me**; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore **have I set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”

Hebrews 12:2 – “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

NOTE: Jesus shamed the shame!

YES, removal of shame comes with restoration and blessing...but it **works as a circle!** SHAME leads to lack...lack leads to shame!

The problem is...too many Christians get caught in that circle and can't get out.

Learning to walk in worship and praise is key to moving out of shame.

Yes...knowing who you are in Christ is key to moving out of shame.

BELOVED: You must **BREAK** the power of shame! Shame keeps you buried!

We know what shame is...

- * Not paying your bills.
- * Not doing the things that you used to be able to do.
- * Stalled dreams.
- * Stalled life.
- * Broken relationships.
- * Mistakes and shortcomings in your past.
- * Failures

I want us to look today at a group of people who needed restoration and had to have their shame removed before they could move in.

The Children of Israel and Abraham

This is probably one of the greatest examples in the Bible of what shame can do to someone...a group of people.

Genesis 12:1-5, 7

- 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
- 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
- 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
- 4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.
- 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they **went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.**
- 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

So, God directed Abraham to Canaan (modern day Israel) and told him that this was HIS land and his seeds land.

WE KNOW...there ended up being a famine in the land and Abe and Sarai went into Egypt for a season. Not the best idea...but they did it.

NOTE: Have you ever noticed how often people in the OT were so ready to leave the promised land during tough times? Hmmm?

Genesis 13:2 – Abraham moves back to the land that he had started in...Canaan!
Abraham does move around the land of Canaan...but he stays in the promised area!

JUMP AHEAD: Isaac meets famine...Genesis 26...notice what God tells him...

Genesis 26:2 – “And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, **Go not down into Egypt;** dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:”

He was told to stay in the land...stay in the Promised Land. Don't move!

JUMP AHEAD: After Jacob's journey to Haran to find a wife and dodge his brother...he moves back to Canaan and raises a family.

Genesis 37:1 – “And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.”

God gives Joseph a dream that he is going to be the man!

I do believe that unless God tells someone to leave...they should stay...therefore, Joseph was NOT intended to do what he did in Egypt, but in Canaan! In the Promised Land!

But His brothers sold him...he went to EGYPT!

UNDERSTAND: This is where shame entered into the children of Israel!

Not with Joseph...understand, it doesn't matter what people do to you...you still carry the call and gifting on your life.

There was NO SHAME in Joseph in Potiphars house...NO SHAME in Joseph in the prison...HE WAS PROMOTED!

There ABSOLUTELY was shame with the brothers because of what they did.

FAST FORWARD: Famine hits...which Israel was suppose to be well prepared for, but they were NOT...SHAME! They had to go to Egypt and beg for food!

They end up in Egypt...Goshen...yes God was with them. But they were operating under shame! Which God was trying to remove them from.

- * It was a land of not enough.
- * They were taskmasters. Slaves.
- * Building a city for another ruler.
- * They could never build enough bricks.
- * The Egyptians could never be satisfied, so they had to work harder.

THINK ABOUT IT: It was all their faults. Their ancestors faults.

430 years in bondage...slaves...that SHAME mentality was in their minds!

God did 10 miracles to change their minds...realize He was dealing wondrously with them. He took them a different way out of Egypt to protect them and teach them.

They wandered a little while before they got their chance to move BACK INTO Canaan!

Numbers 13:2 – “Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.”

This was their chance....this was their moment!

Numbers 13:32-33

- 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.
- 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: ***and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.***

UNDERSTAND: God removed them from Egypt...but He couldn't get the shame of Egypt out of them.

So they wandered 40 years...people from Egypt died in the wilderness.

UNTIL they got one more chance...40 years later.

Joshua 3...they crossed another body of water...the Jordan River...into the land of Canaan! First time in 470 years!

They are in...but what are they gonna do.

Joshua 5:1-9 (NLT)

- 1 When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.
- 2 At that time the LORD told Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites."
- 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.
- 4 Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness.
- 5 Those who left Egypt had all been circumcised, but none of those born after the Exodus, during the years in the wilderness, had been circumcised.
- 6 The Israelites had traveled in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died. For they had disobeyed the LORD, and the LORD vowed he would not let them enter the land he had sworn to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey.
- 7 So Joshua circumcised their sons—those who had grown up to take their fathers' places—for they had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land.
- 8 After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed.

CIRCUMCISION...the sign of the covenant!

Why is this happening? The obviously had to explain it to their kids!

They had a covenant with ALMIGHTY GOD!

BELOVED: When you are NOT covenant minded...you will walk in shame! You will see yourself as NOT worthy...not ABLE!

You will see your past failures...your past lacks! You see you current inabilities.

ILLUSTRATION: The two tribes...one a farming, one a warring tribe...once they come into covenant, they are both farming AND warring tribes.

You may have come up short all your life...you may have failed time and time again.

HOWEVER: Your covenant partner has NEVER failed...He has NEVER come up short!

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, ***“Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt.”*** So that place has been called Gilgal to this day.

BELOVED: They would have never moved into the LAND of CANAAN...and taken possession without SHAME having been removed.

Hebrews 12:24 – “And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

Hebrews 8:6 – “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”

REMEMBER: Genesis 15:2 – “And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?”

What did He give him? A Covenant! It ended the shame of not having a son!

One Extra Important Thought

In Numbers 32...things are getting close to crossing the Jordan...moving in.

The tribes of Gad and Reuben ask Moses if they can settle on the east side of the Jordan River without crossing over with the other tribes.

They had a lot of livestock and the lands were very fertile, so they wanted to stay and finally relax and set up their homes.

MOSES reacts with indignation..anger...”How dare they ask this thing.”

We are ONE...we came here as ONE...and you want to settle and not fight for the other 10 tribes?

Numbers 32:6-11 (NLT)

6 “Do you intend to stay here while your brothers go across and do all the fighting?”
Moses asked the men of Gad and Reuben.

7 “Why do you want to discourage the rest of the people of Israel from going across to the land the LORD has given them?”

8 Your ancestors did the same thing when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land.

9 After they went up to the valley of Eshcol and explored the land, they discouraged the people of Israel from entering the land the LORD was giving them.

10 Then the LORD was very angry with them, and he vowed,

11 ‘Of all those I rescued from Egypt, no one who is twenty years old or older will ever see the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for they have not obeyed me wholeheartedly.

It was COVENANT (to God and His people) to fight for each other!

It was ABSOLUTELY not acceptable for them to stop...to get INVOLVED only in their own lives and their own feelings!

To remove themselves from others...relationships.

Numbers 32:16-19

16 But they approached Moses and said, “We simply want to build pens for our livestock and fortified towns for our wives and children.

17 Then we will arm ourselves and lead our fellow Israelites into battle until we have brought them safely to their land. Meanwhile, our families will stay in the fortified towns we build here, so they will be safe from any attacks by the local people.

18 We will not return to our homes until all the people of Israel have received their portions of land.

19 But we do not claim any of the land on the other side of the Jordan. We would rather live here on the east side and accept this as our grant of land.”

The more civilized a civilization becomes the more we move away from covenant of blood that demands absolute loyalty. "We can think for ourselves and do what we want."

BELOVED: That is NOT the way it is meant to be!

THINK OF THIS: If the two tribes of Gad and Reuben would have stayed on the east side of the Jordan...not crossed over...would they have had the covenant with God cut (Joshua 5)?

Would their shame have been removed!

Our ability to stand with one another...puts us in a position to have that covenant with Almighty God, that sees our shame removed and puts us in position for INCREASE!

ZIG ZIGLAR: You can have anything in life that you want to have...if you just help enough people get what they want.

Listen, you will never get all that God has for you, in this life, without covenant relationships with one another. Committing to one another!

The same blood that was shed for the erasing of your sins was shed for your connection to the Body!

1 Corinthians 11:27-30

- 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Vs. 11 – "wherefore" – **BELOVED:** Us being created to do good things...achieving our God ordained giftings call callings are in the context of covenant relationships.

NOTE: A lot of the shame that we walk under is from the perception of failure in our lives. Perhaps, it is not failure, but lack of connection.

THINK OF THIS: A car can have a perfectly good battery in it...have all the working parts in it...but corrosion has gotten around the battery connectors and it won't run or start! It is a connection problem!

THEREFORE: We have covenant responsibilities to each other.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES: God is not in the business of building ministries, but rather a body.

God is not looking for large organizations as much as He is looking for a healthy and strong organism that can continue to grow.

Doing God's work is nurturing and fostering growth in His living body.

BELOVED: The enemy loves to work shame into the Body of Christ by getting us to focus on how we have come up short...failed...etc.

He even works on the inferiority complex of the Body of Christ.

BELOVED: That is really shame operating!

God has given us ONE ANOTHER for security and intimacy...for acceptance!

THINK ON THIS: If a pastor is trying to win the approval of his congregation by performing to a certain level and doing certain things...he will always find himself falling short. (wrong motives too)

HOWEVER: If a pastor knows that he is fully accepted by God and by trustworthy friends...he will find that he will find joy and peace and confidence through that same congregation.

He can actually accomplish what God has called HIM to accomplish!

UNDERSTAND: No amount of achievement can fulfill the need for acceptance.

THINK ON THIS: God doesn't love you for what you do...but because you are His and He is yours! If you find covenant friends who love you because you are theirs...it will bring freedom to you.

One Heart

Philippians 2:2 – “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (heart).

Acts 4:32 – The early church had ONE heart!

1 Samuel 18:1 – The hearts of Jonathan and David were knit (stitched) together.

THINK ON THIS: If you had your heart stitched together with another heart (by a skilled doctor), to make it a super-heart. You could pump more oxygen throughout your body...therefore, running harder, longer, etc.

HOWEVER: If you continued to rip out the stitches and try to rejoin your heart with different hearts, every so often, it would actually NOT be so awesome...it would weaken your heart.

Where it was meant to allow you to run harder...you would not be able to run at all!

Psalms 119:32 – David talks about His desire for his HEART to be enlarged (through the Word)...so he could run harder and longer.

ILLUSTRATION: Secretariat's heart. The average heart (7.9 lbs) and Secretariat's (22 lbs).

He still holds the records for every one of the triple crown races (1973)...he won the Belmont by 31 lengths (248 feet)...almost a football field.

What was his secret? Enlarged heart!

BELOVED: This is how we get more accomplished...we work together. We connect together!

Final Point

There is NO shame in God! He will not shame you!

BELOVED: The world shames! The enemy shames! Religion shames! The church?

BELOVED: Don't let the enemy ever use you to shame anyone...that is under the blood!

ILLUSTRATION: The church in this vicinity who was seeing a minor revival. Someone came to the church and got gloriously born again and she began inviting every friend she could find...they came...the church was bursting at its seams. Well, one of the old-timers had not been appreciating some of the clothing that some of the ladies have been wearing (not a long dress), so he said something to a couple of the ladies (shamed them). So, they stopped coming and spread the word what was said and others stopped coming, and it got to the point that people who were there before that group of people stopped coming...all because of shame!

REMEMBER: Every person that walks through the doors of this church is either a covenant partner, a future covenant partner...or simply someone that we are to love and encourage and be cause of the blood of Jesus we OWE them LOVE!

QUICK INPUT: Remember the slave who had the debt forgiven and wouldn't forgive others? Well if our shame has been removed and we are busy shaming others, what do you think the outcome of that will be?