

FEELINGS OF SHAME

John 8:3-11

Shame has kept many of us in hiding. The thought of admitting our sins and revealing ourselves to other human beings stirs up feelings of shame and the fear of being publicly exposed.

"The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 'Teacher, they said to Jesus, the law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?'. ...Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, 'All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!' Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one ...until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman" (John 8:3-9).

Many believe that it was Jesus' writing in the dust that caused the accusers to leave. Perhaps he was listing the secret sins of the Jewish leaders. If this is true, it gives us a beautiful picture of the kind of person Jesus is a person to whom we can safely expose our secrets. Our confessor needs to be someone who is not surprised by sin and will not be waiting to condemn us. Such a person needs to take private note of our wrongs, writing them in the soft dust, not etching them in stone and posting them in public. Since shame can be a trigger for addictive behavior, we need to be careful about whom we choose to confide in.

The Dangers of Denial

In Jesus' early ministry, large crowds followed him. But as Jesus confronted the people with the truth of their sins, the crowds gradually dwindled. Eventually, as people were unwilling to face the realities Jesus exposed in their lives, they rejected the only one who could help them. Times have changed, but the pattern of denial remains the same. We begin with some question about the truth and over time develop rigid resistance to it. Gradually our heart becomes hardened, and we no longer see the obvious truth. Just as he confronted the crowds, Jesus also confronts us with the changes we need to make. It takes courage to be open and willing to face the truth; admitting the truth is the first step toward recovery.

A New Life

In John 8:1-11 the Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. Jewish law required that she be put to death (Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22). The Pharisees hoped to trap him try asking him to judge the situation. If Jesus said to stone her, they could have brought him before the Roman authorities. The Romans did not allow the Jews to implement their own death sentences. If Jesus had pardoned this woman, the Pharisees could have claimed he was a false prophet for ignoring God's law. Jesus wisely escaped the trap by showing the Pharisees that they had no grounds for judging since they sinned 100. Then Jesus told the woman to go and sin no more Jesus did not ignore this woman's sin, but he forgave her and gave her a new start in life. Jesus can give each of us a new life, no matter how terrible our past.

ORDER OF SERVICE

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Give Me Jesus | #674 - I Have Decided to Follow Jesus |
| Prayers | #683 - I Am Mine No More |
| Ancient Words | #480 - Blessed Assurance |
| Speak, O Lord | Lord's Supper |
| Pew Packers | Offering |
| Lesson | Announcements |
| #608 – A Wonderful Savior | #571 - Something Beautiful |
| Baptism | Prayers |
| #514 - Redeemed | |

LEADERSHIP

Web Page: Idahofallschurchofchrist.org

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|--|--|--------------|
| Kyle Allbritten, Elder..... | kallbritten67@gmail.com | 618-638-6894 |
| Gary Hunt, Elder..... | garyhunt136@gmail.com | 208-351-8947 |
| Rob Pope, Elder..... | robpope2@gmail.com | 208-757-8175 |
| Andy Burns, Evangelist | apburns8@gmail.com | 208-569-9193 |
| Doug Barber – Worship | | 208-589-3674 |
| Aaron Kays – Building & Grounds..... | | 505-879-4624 |
| Daniâl King – Benevolence | | 208-970-5078 |
| Les & Teresa Pope – Special Programs | | 208-524-0238 |

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES AND WORKS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry | Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines | Caleb Odle - Arlington, Texas |
| Ghana West Africa Water Project | Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania | |

The Perfect Sacrifice

Jesus was a perfect picture of God and a perfect teacher of God's truth in John 1:29-31 we find that he was the perfect sacrifice the Lamb of God. The Old Testament sacrificial system required that an unbiased lamb be slain on the altar in place of the people on at least a yearly basis. Through its death the people could be forgiven of their sins and given a fresh start. By dying on the cross, Jesus fulfilled the requirements of that sacrificial system completely and forever. He is the Lamb of God who deals with our sins, our powerlessness, and our shortcomings. He gives each of us a chance for a new start, no matter how terrible our past has been.

Belief or Unbelief?

Those who witnessed Jesus' actions and heard his words had to choose between belief and unbelief. Our choice, like that of the Pharisees in John 2:17-25, is to accept or reject Jesus claims about his mission and authority. Was he just a fascinating man who did amazing deeds? Was he just a good teacher with an interesting message? Was he a madman with delusions of grandeur? Or was Jesus actually God, who came to live among us? According to the Bible, Jesus is Cod, and he has the power to offer each of us a new life. The disciples discovered this truth and were transformed from rough, inexperienced men into some of the greatest leaders of their day. God has the power to transform us too.

CALENDAR

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|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Bible Study | At the building and live stream |
| Sunday | 11:00 am | Worship | At the building and live stream |
| Sunday | 4:00 pm | Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus | At Pam & Rob's |
| Wednesday | 10:30 am | Senior Breakfast | At Perkins Restaurant |
| Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Bible Study | At the building |
| Saturday | 7:00 pm | Teen Group | At the building |

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| Mar 5 th | SongFest & Potluck – Services 10:30 to noon, no classes, potluck following. |
| Mar 11 th | Spring Food Drive for Mountain States Children's Home. They need canned & jarred foods, personal & household items, boxed & packet foods, snacks & beverages, and paper goods & plastics & cleaning supplies. See a fill list in the lobby. Donations must be at the building by 10:00 am March 11 th . |
| Mar 11 th | Senior Breakfast 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (normally 3 rd Saturday each month but moved up this month to avoid the Men's Retreat.) |
| Mar 16-18 th | Idaho Men's Retreat '23: There will be a Men's Retreat at the Railroad Ranch Dormitory and Dining Hall at Harriman State Park in Island Park. The cost is \$35 per person which includes lodging and meals. This retreat is open to teens also. We will begin Thursday early evening and finish Saturday early afternoon. Bring sleeping bags & pillows. If you have any questions, please ask Andy. |
| April 2 nd | Family Day & Potluck - We ask all our Idaho Falls family to attend a potluck and family meeting after worship services. The leadership will discuss a variety of topics and answer any questions the family may have. A box and forms have been provided on the foyer table to ask questions or make comments in advance. |
| May 18-20 th | Montana Men's Retreat: "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Guest speakers are Carlus Gupton, Wade Purdom, and Matt Burleson. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, includes Thursday dinner, all meals Friday, Saturday breakfast & lunch. |

PRAYERS AND PRAISE

- Praise that Noela Hunt was baptized into Christ this past week.
- Prayers for Gary Brush, recent diagnosed with throat cancer, and Melanie. Their address is 3461 Rosewood St., Kingman, AZ 86401
- Prayers for all in our extended family who are dealing with Covid.
- Prayers for Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- Prayers for Kay and Michael's daughter Mia and her nephew Jeremy.
- Prayers for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Prayers for Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- Prayers for our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

February 26, 2023

Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

Are you ready to follow the Lord Jesus and to go with him wherever he leads you? Jesus did not choose his own course or path in life but followed the will of his Father in heaven. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist at the River Jordan, he was led by the Spirit of God to withdraw into the wilderness of Judea. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Why? Was it simply a test to prepare him for his mission? Or did Satan want to lure him into a trap? The word tempt in English usually means to entice someone to do what is wrong or forbidden. The scriptural word used here also means test in the sense of proving and assessing someone to see if they are prepared and ready for the task at hand. We test flight pilots to see if they are fit to fly under all conditions, including times of adverse turbulence, storms, and poor visibility. In like manner God tests his people to see if they are ready to follow and serve him without reservation or compromise.

Online Bulletin at <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite/general-8>