

The Holy One Has Called Us: Lesson 3
The Call to Be Unashamed

I. We've been taking some time to examine some passages that deal with different callings that God has given to those who want to be His people:

A. Our first lesson dealt with the call to be holy, stemming from among other places

Leviticus 20:26:

1. The purpose of that first lesson was to stop and see, how God turns a spotlight onto the concept of Holiness, emphasizing it as the core principle, around which God built the Law of Moses.
2. What we saw, was that the call to be holy as God is holy, is the reason behind any commandment God has given, before the Old Law, or after it, including the New Covenant we live under today: This sentiment would be echoed by Peter when quoting Lev. 20:26 in 1 Peter 1:16

B. Our second lesson dealt with the later half of Lev. 20:26: God's call for His people to separate themselves from the world, and be special for Him:

1. One of the main points that I want us to remember from that lesson is the necessity of one for the other: We cannot be a Holy People if we are not living as a separate people:
2. The note that we ended on last time is how this presents a challenge for us. Living a life that is separate from the ways of the World, and one that leads to holiness, is going to cause us to be different: It is going to cause us to stand out: And while the choices that make us different will be appreciated by some, in the big picture they will be mocked and devalued by a world that is in rebellion against God:

C. God knows this! God knows that what He asks is not a simple task, and that it will put us at odds with the world: *Matt. 10:22, John 15:18* both speak of the displeasure that we can expect to receive from the world: That is why God has also called us to be *Unashamed:*

II. Shame is an interesting emotion: It seems that out of all our emotions, we most often have difficulty realizing the right context that we should feel shame!

- A. We don't struggle with knowing when to be happy, sad, when to laugh, when to cry, etc... But we can be down right confused when it comes to feeling shame in the appropriate context!
- B. God's people have frequently fell victim to this!
1. *Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no spring rain. Yet you had a harlot's forehead; You refused to be ashamed. - Jer. 3:3*
 2. *Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord. -Jer. 6:15*
 3. *They play the harlot continually; Their rulers dearly love shame. -Hos. 4:18*
- C. Each of these verses speak to an issue which God's people never seem to be able to do away with! We keep getting confused on when to be ashamed!
1. Too often Christians are found participating in those things which ought to bring the shame without the slightest remorse; but when they are are singled out for their faith, or called on for why it is that they are living the way they are-- suddenly, the switch that starts pumping the shame kicks into high gear!!!
 2. We hem, and haw, and maybe say a little something about our faith, but then they walk away leaving us thinking about all the ways we could have said that differently!
- D. God is fully aware of this: That has why He has warned about it so many times!
1. *"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." -Mk 8:38*
 2. *therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. - Matt. 10:32-33*

III. Nobody is above the temptation to be ashamed:

- A. Nobody wants to think of themselves as being ashamed of the Lord: We'd all like to take the words of Peter in *Matt. 26:33-35* and make good on them!
- B. And yet there were many righteous men and women who for one reason or another, let their shame of the Lord overcome them:

1. Most immediately we might think of Peter later on in this very chapter, letting his fear shame him into denying the Lord 3 times just as Jesus foretold!
2. But Peter wasn't alone: earlier in Matt 26:56, it states that all of the disciples left Him and fled!
3. On the other side of the spectrum, it wouldn't be until Jesus died, that Joseph and Nicodemus would finally stop being ashamed of Jesus, requesting His body so that they could care for its burial: John 19:38-41

C. Brethren: we need to take heed of the temptation to deny the Lord!

IV. The apostle Paul gives us many reasons why we should never feel the need to be ashamed: I think that he was uniquely qualified to speak on the subject, because he was so ashamed of all the time he'd spent denying the Lord, its almost as if He wanted to make up for it by being so Unashamed of Jesus for the rest of his life!

V. I want to spend our final few minutes, looking at just a few reasons Paul states that there is no cause for shame in living as God has called us:

1. THE SOURCE of the GOSPEL:

a) 2 Timothy 3:14-17 Illus of backing the wrong horse: Candidate, Teacher, School: suddenly You are distancing yourself!

b) The context of this verse, is that difficult times are going to come: there will be people who are going astray, seeking after their own and returning to the world:

c) YOU TIMOTHY, in contrast, you continue in the things that that you have been convicted of, knowing that they will never let you down: They are God breathed:

d) The Gospel will never put you to shame, therefore you should never be ashamed of it

2. THE POWER of the GOSPEL:

a) Romans 1:13-17

b) This is particularly relevant to us, because it is spoken in the context of something we are trying to make more efforts in: Evangelism:

c) Paul can't wait for the opportunity to preach: because He has something worth sharing: He has a message that has the power to save every man and woman from their sins regardless of their nationality or race: A message that has

revealed the mystery of the ages! Why would there be cause to be ashamed of this!

3. THE VALUE of the GOSPEL:

a) *Phil 3:1-11*: End on this reading:

b) We have all given up something to follow the Lord: Some more than others:
Are there ever regrets? But to Paul; that was unthinkable!

c) Very few people could say, that they had it all: Paul came very close:

d) Political and social ladder, Paul was at the top of the Jewish world: But how does he describe it? v 7-8!

VI. Living a life that was unashamed of the Lord enabled Paul to pursue his calling with all of his heart: 12-13

A. It will be these verses that we will begin with next time, looking at the call to be dedicated: