

2 Samuel Series #2

“Not Ashamed” — 2 Samuel 6:12-23

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Embarrassment*

1. One of the things we do in the home groups is to begin with questions that helps us get to know each other
2. And one of the questions I like to spring on a group after it's been meeting for a while is to ask, “Tell us one of your most embarrassing moments.”
3. Now, I can always tell if I've misjudged the group
 - a. if everyone immediately turns red and clams up, it turns out they don't know each other was well as I thought
 - b. but what usually happens is after a first few moments of silence, someone plucks up the courage and tells us something that happened to them that was really embarrassing
 - c. these gatherings are often some of the most memorable meetings we've had
 - d. we laugh till we cry as we talk about our own mistakes and blunders and the stupid things we've done
4. As you can imagine, I've had a lot of embarrassing moments
 - a. I've made some classic verbal blunders in bible studies and on the radio
 - b. but one of the most embarrassing events of my life was a day at school when I was in 8th grade
 - c. it was 1969 and the hippie movement had pretty well run it's course
 - d. but the clothes designers were still coming out with mod fashions
 - e. my mother found a pair of pants for me at Penny's that she thought I would love
 - f. they were basically green but had flowers printed all over them with that really bright fluorescent paint that was popular back then
 - g. she bought them and put them in my closet, but I wouldn't wear them
 - h. finally, after a lot of her badgering me, and acting all rejected because I wouldn't wear them, I put them on and headed for school
 - i. what a terrible mistake! I got razed all day!
 - j. I felt like a complete dweeb!
 - k. 4 years later, as people were signing my senior yearbook, several of the girls wrote something about how they dug my flowered pants
 - l. that's one reason why I'm not real keen on going to class reunions - I'm afraid they'll still remember!
5. Lynn and I were on our very first date and we stopped at a fast food place to get something to drink
 - a. Lynn got a chocolate shake but didn't taste it till we were back in the car
 - b. when she did, she realized right away that the milk had gone sour

- c. so she turned her head to spit it out the window but I had rolled it up
- d. splat, all over the glass
- e. and you know what, that's not true; it never happened - but now my wife *will be* embarrassed that I told that story

B. Shame

1. We all have funny and embarrassing stories to tell
2. There are things we would love to go back and do over because of the shame they brought us
3. But you know what - shame works two ways:
 - a. the fear of shame not only *guards* us from doing shameful things
 - b. it may also keep us from doing things that we *should*
4. We'll be taking a look at this 2nd aspect of shame in our study today

II. TEXT

A. Setting The Scene

1. Let's refresh our memory on what has already happened . . .
2. David has captured Jerusalem and wants to make it the center of the kingdom
3. He also wants to bring the worship of God back to the center of national life
 - a. so he gathers the leaders of Israel in Kirjath Jearim
 - b. where the ark has been for about 70 years
 - c. he wants to bring the ark to Jerusalem to be at the center of things
 - d. and so that he could be near it
4. As they began the trip in Kirjath Jearim, they loaded the ark on a cart, rather than carrying it as they had been told by God in the book of Numbers
5. Along the way, the cartwheel hit a rut and the ark was jostled
 - a. one of the priests, named Uzzah, put forth his hand to steady the ark
 - b. and God struck him dead on the spot for his irreverence
6. Now, as we saw last week, that seems like a harsh judgment, but it was one the people of Israel needed to see
7. You see, the people of Israel had been over 70 years without the proper worship of God
 - a. now that David wanted to refresh and renew their worship of God, they needed desperately to know what God was like
 - b. and as was revealed in Uzzah's careless action, the people had forgotten that above all, GOD IS HOLY
8. This was the great lesson and essential truth Uzzah's death taught them
9. When David inquired what was wrong, he learned that they had gone about moving the ark in the wrong fashion
10. It was to be carried on the shoulders of a priestly family called the *Kohathites*
11. David found the nearest Kohathite, a man named Obed-Edom, and had the ark taken there till they could arrange the proper means of moving the ark

B. Vs. 12-15

{12} Now it was told King David, saying, “The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

1. The ark was in his house only 3 months but the whole time it was there God poured out His blessings on the family
2. When David realized that God’s judgment for their error was passed and that He had now restored His blessing, he decided it was time to renew the ark’s trip to Jerusalem
3. Only this time, they would carry it the way God had prescribed

{13} And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

4. David found 4 Kohathite men and had them hoist the ark and take a few tentative steps
5. When it was clear none of them were going to be smitten dead, David rejoiced that God’s wrath had passed
6. So they consecrated the trip and venture of bringing the ark to Jerusalem by offering a sacrifice to the Lord

{14} Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

{15} So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

7. It was some distance from Obed Edom’s house to Jerusalem, but the whole way the people worshipped and sang praises to God
8. The worship leader that day was none other than David
9. And his worship was not at all subdued or reserved
 - a. he *danced* before the Lord - meaning the ark
 - b. and he didn’t just kind of [sway lightly]
 - c. he danced with all his considerable might and strength
 - d. in v. 16 we read that he “leapt and whirled about”
10. Here is proof positive David wasn’t a Baptist - he was clearly Pentecostal!
11. Along with the dancing they were shouting and playing their instruments with the volume turned up
12. This was a joyous celebration and they gave full vent to their delight in the Lord

C. Vs. 16-19

{16} Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

1. Michal was David’s first wife who had been forcibly divorced from him by

- her Father Saul when David fled
2. Saul had then given her to another man
 3. After Saul died and David became king, he demanded that Michal return to him
 4. So she was torn from her second husband and taken back to David
 5. Note her reaction here; we'll come back to take a closer look at it in a moment

{17} So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

{18} And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

{19} Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

6. The ark finally arrived in Jerusalem
7. And David threw a great feast of dedication - giving portions to all who attended
8. This was a time of great joy - of tremendous celebration
9. God had given victory to David and the armies of Israel over their enemies all around
10. A new capital and center for the nation has been made for the nation
11. They have a wonderful new king
12. Feelings are running high as the people return to their homes with hearts full of promise and potential
13. David too returns home
14. But the greeting is chill . . .

D. Vs. 20-23

{20} Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

1. Michal has nothing but words of sarcasm and scorn for David
2. She was scandalized and repulsed by her husband's display of affection for God
3. She sneeringly commented on the disgrace he brought on himself by his loss of reserve
4. She tried to embarrass him with the accusation that he had revealed too much of himself to the people

{21} So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over

the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

{22} “And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

5. In effect David said, “Michal, I wasn’t dancing and playing music to please *you*. I was worshipping God!”
6. “And if you’re embarrassed by what you’ve seen today, then hold on because I haven’t even gotten started.”
7. “And while you were here in the house watching from a distance, the people whose hearts were right toward God were down with me in the street joining in the celebration and praise.”
8. The chapter ends with these sobering words . . .

{23} Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

9. These words aren’t merely a postscript to Michal’s life
10. The Holy Spirit wants us to understand that they are an integral part of this story
11. That is why the verse begins with the word “Therefore”
12. You see, Michal had no children because though she lived in David’s house, he no longer had a relationship with her
13. She ended up living a life of fruitlessness—all because she scorned David’s worship of God

III. CONCLUSION

A. The Lessons

1. There are two vital lessons this passage teaches us
2. The first lesson is the example of **David’s Abandonment of Himself to God in Worship**
 - a. David knew he was the king; and he knew there was a certain level of reserve people expected in a king
 - b. but David weighed the expectations of the people around Him against the expectation of God and knew God’s opinion of him far outweighed anyone else’s
 - c. David was willing to set aside the accepted conventions of his day to express his love of God
 - d. he would give vent to his love and praise - no matter what others thought, just so long as he could show the Lord how much he adored him
 - e. yes, David was willing to risk embarrassment before man if it meant being identified with the Lord
3. What a lesson this is for us!
 - a. is the expression of our love and devotion to Christ hindered by the opinions of others?

- b. do we allow the expectations of our families or friends to determine how we worship?
- c. I remember the first time I went to a church were people lifted their hands in praise
 - 1) most of the people around me had their hands up
 - 2) and I realized that I had a choice to make
 - lift mine up too
 - or keep them down
 - 3) I stood there and felt my face turn bright red as I realized I should *want* to raise my hands, but was afraid someone might see me and think I had gone over the edge of this religion thing
- d. I fought that battle for several weeks, but finally realized that God was waiting and watching
- e. He allowed me to see that I was holding out because of the opinion of people I should not be trying to impress
- 4. There is a song we sing that expresses this well

We will worship the Lamb of glory - We will worship the King of kings
 We will worship the Lamb of glory - We will worship the King of kings
 And with our hands lifted high, we come before Him and sing
 With our hands lifted High, We come before Him rejoicing
 With our hands lifted high to the sky and the world wonders why
 We'll just tell them we're loving our King
- 5. Friends, no matter what level of expression your worship has come to, because God is infinite in His glory, majesty, and grace, there is always some deeper level to move to
- 6. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He guides you to new expressions of love and praise
- 7. And don't let embarrassment before man keep you from being marked with God
- 8. The second lesson this passage teaches us is **To Be Careful of Scorning Other's Expressions of Worship**
 - a. Michal rebuked David and scorned him for his style of worship
 - b. she made fun of him and tried to bring shame on him
 - c. the result was a loss of relationship with her husband and barrenness
 - d. there is a danger that if we make fun of others when they worship God, we may lose a sense of intimacy with God ourselves
 - 1) and losing that intimacy with Him surely means spiritual barrenness in our own lives
 - 2) we will become fruitless and unprofitable in our walk with the Lord
 - e. you see friends, we cannot see into another's heart; we don't know *why* they are praising God the way they are
 - f. therefore, we cannot presume to judge whether or not God accepts their worship
 - g. as long as they come to God in spirit and in truth, trusting in Jesus Christ alone, then they are acceptable to Him
 - h. as Paul says in {Rom 14:4} Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand,

- for God is able to make him stand.”
- i. this is one reason I have been very careful not to judge those many people who are caught up in the so called “Toronto Blessing” or “laughing revival”
 - 1) I will argue long and loudly about the faulty theology behind it
 - 2) I will contend that the leaders are taking people down a dangerous path
 - 3) but I will not scorn the thousands of people who are looking for a way to express their love and devotion to God and have placed their trust in their spiritual leaders and pastors
 - 4) it is the leaders who shoulder the greatest responsibility while the people simply want to be in the center of what God is doing
 - j. Christian, be careful of looking at others as they worship and scorning them because their style of praise is different from your own
 - k. that is the path of spiritual barrenness

B. A Final Word

1. This brings us to a final thought:
2. It used to be said that you could tell a lot about a person by what they would blush at
3. But we seem to be living at a time when people have forgotten how to blush
4. It is as though nothing embarrasses us anymore
5. Nothing that is but being identified as a *lover* of Jesus Christ
6. The perversions that not too long ago could not even be mentioned in public are now being given legal protection and an honored place while Christians are being marginalized, shunned, and scorned
7. It is our WORDS and BEHAVIOR which marks us before the world as the *followers* of Jesus, but it is our WORSHIP which marks us as His *lovers*