

## Embarrassing Moments

Luke 9:23-26

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** None of us likes to be embarrassed or humiliated.
  - A. Many of us remember our days in school and the memories of awkward occasions where we were humiliated or embarrassed before our peers or family (dirty elbows!).
  - B. Have you ever had the dream where you're back in school and only wearing your underwear?! How embarrassing!
2. I don't know anybody who enjoys feelings of embarrassment and humiliation!
3. If you're like me, I'm confident you take great pains to make sure you don't do something (wear something! Say something!) that might bring embarrassment.
4. While it is good sense to take such care in regard to temporal things, shouldn't we be just as diligent about spiritual things?
5. **3** Are we making sure we have no reason to be embarrassed spiritually?

### II. DISCUSSION: *Would you be embarrassed if...*

1. **4** *It was known what you were really thinking?*
  - A. The thoughts and intents of our hearts reveal who we really are.
    - (1) Jesus said, "*But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man*" (**Matt. 15:16-20**).
    - (a) *Adultery*: **Matt. 5:28**: "*But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*"
    - (b) *Murder*: **1 Jn. 3:15**: "*Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*"
    - (2) This is where sin emanates from (Prov. 23:7).
  - B. We need to make sure we're thinking on the right things (**Phil. 4:8**: "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"). **\*\*Pray about it!**
2. **5** *It was known what you say about others?*
  - A. Words have power ∴ be careful what we say (**Jas. 1:19**: "*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*").
  - B. One of the scariest passages in the entire Bible! **Matt. 12:36-37**: "*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*"
    - (1) Gossip, backbiting, and such are not to be named among God's people:
      - 1 Pet. 2:1**: "*Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,*"
      - Eph. 4:31-32**: "*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*"

**Col. 3:8-10:** “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,”

**1 Tim. 3:11:** “Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.” Cf. **Titus 2:3:** “the older women likewise...be...not slanderers...”

- (2) “slanderers”: from *diabolos* (Satan): Vine: “...accusing falsely...those who are given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others and spreading their innuendos and criticism in the church...”

C. We can do good or evil with our words (**Jas. 3:2-12**).

D. Make sure you're speaking things that are right and good (**Matt. 7:12:** “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”; **Eph. 4:29:** “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”; remember Matt. 12:36-37!).

3. **6** It was known what goes on in your home?

A. Many people have a double-life when it comes to their home.

(1) They have a persona in public, but it is a completely different picture in private.

(2) It's called “double-minded” in Scripture: Thayer: “divided in interest, namely, between God and the world: James 4:8”

**Jas. 1:8:** “...a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

**Jas. 4:8:** “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

B. Parents are to be honored and obeyed by children and the father must set the proper example before his children and family, particularly in regard to spiritual matters (**Eph. 6:1-4**).

(1) The husband is to love and appreciate his wife, the wife is to love, appreciate, and submit to her husband (**Eph. 5:22-25**).

(2) We must ever strive to make our homes the kind of place God would have it to be!

(3) If we don't, we are robbing our children of one of the most important things we can instill in them...the love and stability of a “Christian home”!

(4) A famous line from a movie (*Love Story*) said, “Love means never having to say you're sorry.” Nonsense! “Love means we have the strength of heart so say we're sorry when we're wrong!”

(a) Husbands & wives: the most important words you can ever say to your spouse are: “I'm sorry.”

(b) Fathers & mothers: the most important words you can ever say to your children are: “I'm sorry.”

(c) Children: the most important words you can ever say to your mother and father are: “I'm sorry.”

4. **7** It was known what you know of the Bible?

A. There was a time when God said His people were destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and there was a time when there was a famine for the word of God (Amos 8:11).

**Hos. 4:6:** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

**Amos 8:11:** “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.” 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.”

B. Do you know the word of God? Do you know the wonderful story of redemption? Do you have hope of salvation and heaven?

(1) If so, can you give an answer for the hope that lies within you (1 Pet. 3:15)?

(2) Do you have a deep and abiding hunger for God’s Word? Matt. 4:4

(3) Some have been in the kingdom a long time, but have little knowledge (1 Cor. 15:34: “...for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”).

C. What is your attitude toward God’s Word?

**Job 23:12:** “I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

**Psa. 19:9-11:** “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”

**Jer. 15:16:** “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;”

D. How important is God’s Word to you?! **Jn. 12:48:** “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

E. Make sure you study diligently so that you may know what the will of the Lord is (2 Tim. 2:15; **Eph. 5:17:** “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”).

5. **8** It was known what percentage you give?

A. Paul told the brethren in Corinth and Galatia to give as they had been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2: “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.” NASV).

(1) Do you really “give...as [you] prosper”?

(2) Or, do you just grab a few bills from your wallet without really giving it any thought?

(3) What is your thought process when deciding what to give? **2 Cor. 9:5:** “...generosity... grudging obligation.”

(4) What about when you are absent from services? Do you make it up next time? You’ve made a commitment to work and worship with this congregation, don’t you then have the obligation?

B. Are you a “cheerful giver”? **2 Cor. 9:7:** “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

C. Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven or treasures on earth?

**Matt. 6:19-21:** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither

*moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**Matt. 6:24:** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

D. Make sure your giving is with heaven in view (Matt. 6:33).

6. **9** It was known what really defines your life?

A. Are you a genuine Christian?

(1) Dictionary.com on genuine: "possessing the claimed or attributed character, quality, or origin; not counterfeit; authentic; real..."

(2) Synonyms: legitimate, authentic, definitive, unimpeachable, substantive, uncontrived

B. Or, are you a fake? A phony?

**Rom. 6:3-4:** "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also **should** walk in newness of life."

(1) Notice Paul said "we...**should** walk in newness of life," not "we **will** walk in newness of life."

(2) We have a choice to make when we are baptized! We have to make "should" into "will"!

C. Satan doesn't necessarily want you to lose your faith.

(1) He is thoroughly satisfied if you have some faith!

(2) He just wants our faith weak enough that it is ineffective!

**Rom. 8:5-8:** "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

D. What's your mindset?

**Phil. 3:17-20:** "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"

(1) Do you think about your mindset (e.g., as you start your day)? Matt. 6:33

(2) Do you think about what obligates us to have a "heavenly" mindset? **Col. 3:2-4:** "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

7. **10** You meet Christ?

A. Many claiming to be Christians are apparently embarrassed (ashamed) of Christ:

(1) Shrink back whenever His name or the Bible becomes the topic of discussion.

(2) Compromise with the world (social drinking, dancing, mixed swimming, etc.).

- (3) “Sunday only” Christians!
- B. Don't be deceived, He is surely coming (**Acts 17:31**: “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- (1) When He comes again will you be “ashamed” or “confident”?
- Lk. 9:26**: “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.”
- (2) Paul wasn't ashamed:
- Rom. 1:16-17**: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”
- C. I believe one of the surest signs of “spiritual growth” is when we lose our shame of Christ and the gospel!
- (1) God will be ashamed of us as long as we are ashamed of Him!
- Heb. 11:16**: “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”
- (2) The six most dreaded words we can ever hear are found in Matthew 7:23: “I never knew you; depart from Me...”
- D. No one knows the day or the hour and so the Lord said we should always be ready (Matt. 24:42-45).
- (1) So we must make sure we're always prepared for His coming: **Matt. 25:1-13**
- (2) If we follow Jesus' advice we can be confident when He comes!
- 1 Jn. 2:28**: “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”
- E. Can you imagine the terror that will grip our hearts on that great day if we are ashamed of Him? Let us labor for the Master daily so we are not spiritually embarrassed.

### III. CONCLUSION: **II**

- I. Would you be embarrassed if...
  - ☛ It was known what you are really thinking?
  - ☛ It was known what you say about others?
  - ☛ It was known what goes on in your home?
  - ☛ It was known what you know about the Bible?
  - ☛ It was known what percentage you give?
  - ☛ It was known what really defines your life?
2. When Christ comes will you be “ashamed” (i.e., embarrassed) or “confident”?
3. Invitation

Adapted from an article *Would You Be Embarrassed?* by Phillip Stuckey.