

## *“Shame in the Hands of a Truthful God”*

Psalm 31:1–24

14 May 2017

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What has been your most embarrassing moment?

### WORLDVIEW

2. In an increasingly permissive society, it seems that the only people who still feel any shame nowadays are those that hold to some religious standard. What things actually still cause shame in secular society? How does this differ from what causes shame to Christians?

### INTO THE BIBLE

3. In what ways do we try and overcome our shame? Use the following passages as prompts:

**Genesis 3:7–13**—Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

**Matthew 26:69–75**—Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.” But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.” Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly.

**Matthew 27:3–5**—Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

**Acts 5:1–4**—But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

Why do these methods ultimately fail? What’s the effective alternative?

## GOING DEEPER

4. The psalmists frequently declare that the Lord is a fortress and a strong tower to them in their times of need. How did they, and how can we, gain such confidence in the Lord's ability and willingness to care for us?
  
5. What does it actually mean and look like to trust in the Lord and lean on Him for deliverance from shame? How does this differ when you have brought the shame upon yourself, and when you suffer shame from something having been done to you?
  
6. Is there a difference between shame and guilt? If so, how would you define the difference?
  
7. Why is there a call to those who are besieged by shame to be courageous? Shouldn't they rather be quiet and humble? How would courage relieve shame?

## PRAYER ITEMS

### Prayer Psalm: 31

**Praise:** The safe arrival of Malachi Mark Armstrong (9 May 2017)

**Church Families:** Byron, Mignonette, Jordan & Taylor Smith; Brenda Sono

**Special Needs:** Hannah Murphy; Mavis Coetzee; Unemployed & underemployed

**Expectant Couples:** Sean & Tammy Kennedy; Andrew & Sandhya Lear; Gareth & Debbie Payne; Angelo & Nikita Tokalon; Quintin & Denna Starkey

### Adoptions

**Ministry:** Shepherd's School

### The Great Commission:

- Jenny Close (Vietnam) and Susan Buys (Thailand)
- Slovenia (central Europe) has a strong Catholic tradition; however, Christianity is widely nominal. Widespread atheism and increasing rates of suicide and abortion challenge the role of the church in society. Pray that the many nominal Christians in mainline churches will come to personal faith in Christ and be bold in gospel witness.
- Unreached Focus: Egypt (85.3 million people; 90% Muslim; 10% Christian)

**Sister Churches:** Goodwood Baptist Church (Cape Town)—Martin Drysdale

**Our Country:** Eastern Cape Provincial Premier—Mr Phumulo Masualle

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As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.