Getting Through the Tough Stuff: It's Always Something!

Getting Through the Tough Stuff of Shame

John 8:1–11

The Heart of the Matter

If pride precedes a fall, then shame follows it. Strong regret and public censure, mixed with humiliation and embarrassment, comprise one of the most devastating of all human emotions: shame. Who hasn't known the sting of shame? The anguish cannot be adequately expressed in words. The agony defies description. In this message, we will witness how our Lord handled a situation shrouded in shame. What a model He left for us to follow as we get through the tough stuff of shame!

Discovering the Way

1. Shame: An Agony All Its Own

Shame can weigh down a soldier, a minister, a husband . . . even a president. This brings us to one of the most poignant scenes in the life of Jesus—His encounter with a shamed adulteress.

2. An Adulteress and Her Accusers (John 8:1–6)

Several self-righteous, religious leaders—intent on entrapping Jesus into breaking either the Roman or Hebrew law—dragged before Him a woman caught in shameful adultery.

3. Her Advocate and His Approach (John 8:7–11)

The only One on earth qualified to condemn the adulteress in her shame did not do so. Instead of condemning, Jesus had honest compassion, which involved confrontation and a stern exhortation. He lifted her from her place of shame and set her firmly in a new direction of repentance.

Starting Your Journey

Are you weighed down by shame? Those who condemn you are not qualified to do so. And the One who is qualified to condemn does not. As Paul said, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Tools for Digging Deeper

Getting Through the Tough Stuff
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CD series

Clearing Away the Trash We Regret
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