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Issue 4

# The Shame of Jesus

Communion Meditation John 19:23-24

The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also the coat: now the coat was woven without seam, from the top throughout. They said therefore one to another, "Let us not rend it but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, they parted My garments among them, and upon My vesture did they cast lots."

The only possession that Jesus had was the clothing He wore, and when they crucified Him, they even took that away from Him, and Jesus died on the cross, naked. There is enough said about modesty of dress in both Old and New Testaments for us to realize this must have been a great shame to Jesus.

But this act of the soldiers, fits into the scheme of things, when we remember when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the first thing they noticed was they were naked. So the Second Adam who died for our sins was made to feel the same shame as the first Adam when he sinned.

Adam and Eve made themselves clothes of fig leaves to cover their nakedness. When God came calling, in the Garden in the cool of the day He said, "Adam where art thou?" Adam said, "I was afraid when I heard thy voice, for I was naked, and I hid myself."

It seems the fig leaf clothes he thought covered his nakedness, was not enough in the eyes of God; he was still naked. In a similar way many of the human race have been persuaded that the fig leaves of their good works is enough to insure their entry into heaven, to stand before God who sees them just as naked as they were the day they were born.

However God provided better clothing for Adam and Eve when he made for them coats of skins, and clothed them. To be properly clothed before God there had to be the shedding of blood. Paul told the elders of Ephesus: "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which He purchased with His own blood." The words of the apostle Peter says it like it is when he said in 1st Peter 1:18-19, 'Knowing the ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver and gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ."

The blood of Christ is the only thing that covers the nakedness of mortal man in the eyes of God. Galatians 3:27 provides, a very suggestive way as to how we may put on the robes of salvation, when Paul says: "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." When we are clothed with the blood of Christ, God can no longer see what Isaiah called the filthy rags of our own self-right-eousness, but only the sinless perfection of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

In Hebrews 9:22 it is written, "Apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission." In Revelation 1:5 it is written, "Unto Him who loved us and washed away our sins by His sins in His own blood; and made us to be kings and priests unto His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever."

## THE APPOINTMENT

Communion Meditation

Regarding the institution of the Lord's Supper, in the gospel according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke is the story about Jesus sending Peter and John into the city, and they would see a man bearing a pitcher. Jesus said, "Tell that man that the Master wants to know where, is the room

where I can observe the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished, and there make ready for us. In Matthew 26:19 it is written: "And the disciples went, and did as Jesus appointed them."

After the observance of the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the communion service that Paul would call the Lord's Supper. The place of this observance was done by appointment. They did as Jesus appointed them.

Is it not true that we also have an appointment to observe the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day? Jesus said this do in remembrance of me; and Acts 20:7 indicates that it was the day when the church gathered together for that service. Are we faithful in keeping that appointment?

That is a good question when we consider there are other appointments in the word of God that have been made for us. Paul told the Athenians on Mars Hill: "God hath appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained, where-of He hath given assurance unto all the nations in that He hath raised Him from the dead." That is an appointment that we all will keep; all other activities will be pre-empted. When I think of that appointment, I feel much better about it, if I am faithful in keeping the appointment at the Lord's Table.

Then there is an appointment in Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed for man once to die." Whenever I think of that appointment, I really do feel better about it, if I am being faithful to the appointment at the Lord's Table.

There is another appointment in Matthew 28:16: "When the eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had appointed them." The Great Commission of Jesus to the apostles was given by appointment. This program was to begin at Jerusalem, and from there, to spread to the uttermost part of the earth.

The program of the Great Commission involves every Christian making known the gospel of Christ to every person in the world, either by preaching, teaching, or personal witness; by use of time, talent, or treasure in whatever venue is available. This is our appointed task, and we are reminded of that appointment, when we keep the appointed meeting at the Lord's Table, on the Lord's Day.

# Update From Ike & Lee

Everyone here in the family is doing very well by the grace of God. All the kids are fine and assisting us in every way to get life going physically and spiritually. We hope you are also doing fine? The weather here is not favorable at all due to the Hamattan season, which has dried up everything, cracking our lips and burning our noses. Now we are putting on more clothes than ever. The cold is so much that we have not opened our windows for weeks now. At dawn, the cold is so severe that getting up is not an easy thing let alone take your bath. But of all these we go through it to win souls for Christ. Thanks to all of you for the clothes, shoes and materials for our soul winning work here it makes the job a bit easier for us than before. May

God bless you!

#### **ED'S SERMON TRANSLATION**

This program is growing everyday with more invitations coming in. People are being converted through this ministry into the Lord's church and we are so glad. It is making us see places, especially, villages we haven't heard of before. The program is letting people know about the church. Several people have told us that they have never heard of the Church of Christ before and it throws a big signal to us that the church is still in the dark. Seven out of 10 people will tell you they attend the church of Pentecost in most of the towns and villages we went. Thanks to Ed for those wonderful sermons that win souls! (See email below from Ike that came a few weeks later.)

Hope every one of you is doing well by the grace of God? Over here we are doing pretty well and seriously on our soul winning work. Our Ed's sermon translation saw a wonderful baptism we have not experienced before and that is, a cripple given himself to Christ through baptism upon hearing Ed's sermon. He crawls on the ground and lives in a village about two miles away from us. He said he will attend church every Sunday but not on week days. Asking him how he is going to do it, he said he's a farmer and weeds people's farm for a fee so he can manage it to come. Whilst we pity him, he sounds very positive and it gives us a lot of encouragement. We are thinking of getting him a wheelchair. We are going again today after here. Pray for us that we are able to go and get a soul for Christ.

#### **BIBLE STUDY LESSONS**

Many are still enrolling and studying the course and we have more lessons to mail back to Ed and Naomi for grading. Quite recently, we had a message from a teacher who is a member of the Bawjiase Church of Christ here in Bawjiase but teaches in a village that, his students are not good at all in English so he is using the lessons to teach them the English language. George Antwi (the teacher) is a graduate of the Studies in the Bible Course and also the Jesus According To John and Into All The World—Acts courses. Keep us in your prayers as we labor together to reach and teach the lost in Africa.

Ike and Lee: The Truth/GIJAPA

## LETTERS

Dear Ed and Naomi,

Greetings in our God the Father and His soon coming Son Jesus Christ. Thank God almighty for all He is doing through this ministry. We praise God for your 89th birthday, Ed. We received the 17 Bibles last month. We couldn't express how we have been blessed through the Holy Bible. Thank you very much. The paper (GIJAPA newsletter) also very uplifting after reading it we had to pass it around to the brethren. It was a great blessing for all of us. We are becoming a little congregation we were 20 but now 10 more Christians are added, praise the Lord! Meanwhile we are humbly requesting you if you are able

to send us 10 more Bible for the new born Christians, and at least one copy of your sermon book to share with everyone. The names of the new Christians are below. Please continue to keep up the good work in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly!

Your brother in Christ Amanuel from Ethiopia (Amanuel wrote us last month stating that 20 were meeting in his house to study God's word, and we sent Bibles and Bible studies for them along with 15 copies of our newsletter. Now their Church has doubled. Please keep them in your prayers as we continue to teach them.)

Below is a reception report from R. Killick from New Zealand. He/she writes a summary of the sermon heard (Ten Questions From Romans 10) by way of BEACON OF HOPE short-wave broadcast. In addition to the summary of the sermon, he/she writes that the signal was very good and steady for the whole 30 minutes but at that time of our day 8:30 AM Sunday the sun is well up. It was very good even though New Zealand is not your target area. (We answered with a Bible, Bible Study lessons, and newsletter.)

#### Letters below received by email:

Rev. Bousman,

When I was 17, I used to put you on the air at WSRW or was it WBFP (I worked at both stations). I am now 66. Although I am Jewish, it's good to hear that you're carrying on your faith to this day. Keep up the good work.

Best regards, Jim from Finneytown, Ohio

Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2008 Ed,

First, I want to thank you for your many years of dedication to our Lord and His ministry. You have certainly been an encouragement to me and helped me understand the Scriptures even more. As you know, you provide MP3's of your sermons online for people to download and listen to. I recently purchased an iPod. So, I've been importing your sermons into iTunes to sync to my iPod for listening while I drive to work and back.

I tell you this because it gave me an idea - why don't you see about publishing your sermons on iTunes as podcasts? As far as I know, there is no additional cost to do so. I know it would make it easier for me to download, sync, and listen to them; and I'm sure others would be very interested in doing the same thing. For your convenience, here are a couple links to give you more info and help in doing this if you also concur that it would be a good idea. I have no hard feelings if you do not wish to do so, but I thought I'd at least make the suggestion just in case.

In Christ, Timothy from Williamstown, NY

Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 3:11 PM

Have you considered setting up the sermons on gijapa.com as a podcast so that people can automatically download them to their iPods or other mp3 players? This would allow us to listen "on the go" and not be tied to the computer. Thanks. (After receiving these two emails in two days, we started the process to see what we have to do here

at GIJAPA to get this done.)

Dear Brother Ed.

Yesterday I received 3 cases of Bibles that you posted on February 6, '08. Thank you for the gift. I distributed a case of these Bibles to the Christian that work at the post office in Monrovia. They all prayed for you and your ministry, as Bibles are difficult to afford by most Christians in my country. Do you still have access to communion trays and cups? I need them for the few new Christian Churches the Lord had planted in the interior part of Liberia. Keep up the good work in the Lord brother Ed; the Lord has a crown for you in Glory that you will one day receive. I still need Bibles, used clothing and some correspondence courses for the congregation in Sierra Leone. I will be visiting them in April this year when the Lord provides the fare. Your special prayers and blessings.

In Christ. Mike Foday from Liberia, W. Africa

Dear Brother Ed:

Warm greetings from UCC. I received the box that you sent in my name by registered mail. I just arrived back here after winter vacation. I have another bunch of answer scripts to be mailed to you that my students have completed from your correspondence Bible Study lessons. Very few students are here now. Shortly they will come from their homes to write their exams and then be back till the results are published. Thanks for sending the broadcast tapes to me regularly. How is your health? Give my regards to Sister Naomi. With warmest regards.

Ed from Union Christian College, India
P.S. I am glad to let you know that I have been named the
Vice Principal of our college. I joined the duty on 1st
February. I do need your prayers.

Wednesday, March 05, 2008 1:11 AM Dear Ed:

Glad to let you know I heard your broadcast on 2nd March at 8:30 AM in the 19 meter band, (Sri Lanka broadcast beamed into India) The message was from JUDE on common Salvation - contend earnestly for the Faith. The reception was good.

With warmest regards, Edward from UCC in India

Name - Henok A.

Comments - first of all God bless all of the people of the world and you GIJAPA producers. I am a student and follower of Christ from Eritrea in the city of Asmara and I now would like a free Bible if u don't have trouble sending me one and your correspondence Bible study lessons.

ASMARA, ERITREA

Dear Mr. Ed Bousman,

I'm writing you regards to Bible study courses as well as a large print Bible. I got into the wrong crowd of people so I'm now serving 10 years sentence in an Arkansas prison. I think your organization (GIJAPA) is doing a wonderful work for the churches reaching out to the ones who are in prison and across the nation. I tune into the Little Rock, Arkansas station at 9:30 PM 1090 KAAY every

Sunday and I love your broadcast. Myself and a few others inmates listen every week and we are praying for you everyday. Please pray for us here at the Quachita River Correctional Unit in Malvern, AR. Thank you Lord and thank you, Ed.

William H. from prison in Malvern, AR

# THE DEVIL'S DAMNATION SCALE

Temptation is like music. The scale of music and the scale of sin are both in very narrow confines. All music is composed within the confines of the scale A, B. C. D. E. F. G. All music composed by Brahms, Beethoven. Bach, Berlin, or Bousman, was comprised of those notes—no more no less. Even the noise we hear on radio and television that is called music has no more than these same notes. Sometimes sharps and flats are slipped in between the cracks of those notes, but that is all there is to the scale of music. There seems to be no limit to the number of songs that can be composed of such narrow confines.

The scale of sin is in more narrow confines than music. The Devil's Damnation Scale is composed of only three notes. John tells us what the sin scale is in his first epistle the second chapter and the sixteenth verse, "FOR ALL THAT IS OF THE WORLD, THE LUST OF THE FLESH AND THE LUST OF THE EYES AND THE VAINGLORY OF LIFE, is not the Father, but of the world."

This is the scale the Devil used in his siren song to Eve and then to Adam in the Garden of Eden. It worked so well that he has used it successfully on everyone else since. The Devil only has three strings on his damnation banjo, three notes to play on his damnation trumpet. He may play sharps and flats. He is a master of harmony, but it is always the same three notes.

Sometimes people say that young people have greater

temptations than fifty years ago. No! There are no new temptations. The harmony may be arranged differently, but there is no end of songs the Devil can play on the damnation scale—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, all that is in the world, is in this damnation scale.

E. B.

## PAUL THE OBNOXIOUS

A casual reading of Paul's epistles, especially to the Corinthians reveals that he was a very undesirable person. In fact he was very obnoxious. Consider the following statements he made about himself.

In Second Corinthians 12:16, He indicated that he was sneaky. He said, "Never-the-less, being crafty, I caught you with guile."

In the eleventh chapter of the same book he confessed to being a thief of the worst kind. In verse eight he said, "I robbed other churches." Notice he did not rob banks he robbed other churches. How despicable can a person get? In the same chapter in the tenth verse he indicates that he was a braggart. He said, "No man shall stop me of this boasting." Now think of that, a man who goes around robbing Churches and then brags about it.

Then again in the same chapter in the sixth verse he indicates that he is lacking in social graces of polite behavior. He says, "But though I be rude in speech..." Think of that he was rude to people and admitted it.

And to cap the climax, on top of all that he was very narrow minded, dogmatic, and intolerant. He was in favor of everybody going to hell if they did not agree with him. In Galatians the first chapter and ninth verse he said, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Most religious people today would agree with the Jews in Jerusalem when they said in Acts 22:22, "Away with such fellow from the earth, for it is not fit that he should live." E.B.

