

September 13, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“Ashamed”

- There are things in this world that we will brag about. Our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Our pets, homes, sports teams.
- Yet there are times that we don't brag about those things because we feel ashamed of what they do or the condition of our homes.
- Some family members may have addictions that they haven't conquered.
- Our pets may just not listen and jump on people or they may be aggressive.
- Our homes may be tiny or in need of many repairs.
- We see that there are many reasons for not feeling proud about a person or pet.
- What about Jesus? Are we ashamed of Him?
- Let's look at our scripture.
- We first see that Jesus is predicting His death and Peter reprimands Jesus.
- Jesus tells Peter he is looking at things from a human point of view.
- After this Jesus calls the crowd to join the disciples.
- Now we get into the meat of this scripture. If you can imagine being part of the crowd and maybe hearing part of the conversation between Jesus and Peter.
- You hear Jesus start to teach,
- **“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. 35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. 36 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? 37 Is anything worth more than your soul?”**
- What an image that must have been to the crowd. Pick up your cross.
- Jesus knew what words to speak to put an image in the minds of the ones He was teaching.
- Pick up your cross. This instrument of death that they saw on a regular basis.
- They knew exactly what Jesus was saying.

- We need to put to death our selfishness and follow Him.
- When we become a follower of Jesus our lives will have tough choices and sacrifices.
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the amazing Christian martyr of Germany, said, “Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ.” Great leaders have always demanded personal allegiance. King Arthur bound his knights to him by rigid vows. Giuseppe Garibaldi, nineteenth-century Italian patriot, offered his followers hunger, death, and Italy’s freedom. Sir Winston Churchill’s stirring speech in the House of Commons, May 13, 1940, is best remembered by the dramatic words: “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.”**
- When we make that decision to follow Jesus it is at a cost. That cost is we will have sufferings in our life.
- The cost is ourselves, our wants, our desires and the things that the world offers us.
- Many times when we live out our faith we have to put ourselves aside.
- God calls and we must obey. I’m sure there are times that our Sunday school teachers would like to sleep in and not teach but they do it any way.
- I know that there are times when I just begin to rest and it’s another phone call or another funeral. Maybe someone asking for help. Now you may say that I pursued the pastorate and you would be right and wrong. You are right because I did pursue the pastorate but I pursued it because God called me.
- Jesus has called each of us to follow Him.
- Are we truly following Him? Are we putting ourselves aside?
- Jesus’s main point is that we will have times when we sacrifice ourselves when we follow Him.
- In the movie The War room the main character had to sacrifice time to pray. She sacrifice closet space to follow Jesus. She had to sacrifice her own natural reactions.
- How much do we sacrifice to get things of this world?
- How much do we sacrifice for that vacation?

- How much do we sacrifice to provide a certain level of comfort?
- In picking up our cross the things of this world needs to take a back seat to the things of God. When we pick up our cross we must put aside the world's opinions of what is right or wrong. When put ourselves aside we put aside the fear of being ridiculed for speaking the truth.
- **38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”**
- God has put into us a bold spirit! We can go before His throne boldly!
- We are men and tell to go boldly before men telling them about Jesus and His love for them.
- **Hebrews 4:16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**
- **Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.**
- We have the believers of the past that has shown us how to live out our faith.
- We have had Christians that were told that they need to renounce their faith and accept the Muslim faith or die. They chose death.
- Yet there are Christians out there that are afraid of people will make fun of them.
- Peter on the day of Pentecost boldly stood before thousands and told them about Jesus.
- The disciples went and told the stories no matter what the cost.
- Folks we need to wake up, stand up and speak up for Jesus!
- God has not given a timid spirit but gives us power according to 2 Timothy 1:7
- Power to overcome our fears. Power to go into the world and tell others about the love story of Jesus.
- Are we fearful or fearless?

- Are we ready to rest in His power?
- I don't know about you but I want Jesus to be proud of me before God and His angels!
- The church has been too silent too long!
- I don't want Brownsville Church to be silent!
- I want us to stand and proclaim the good news of God's love!
- The question is are we ready? Do we have the courage?