

## Shame Interrupted: God's Beautiful Words to the Disgraced

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Shame is receiving the attention it deserves. Those who have been shamed are escaping wordless silence and giving voice to their experience. They are assisted by many others who have made their voice public. The next challenge is for spoken fragments to be drawn together and reframed into a coherent and hopeful story. Classic texts such as Judith Herman's *Trauma and Recovery*, and Bessel Van der Kolk's *The Body Keeps the Score*, both identify the need for a hopeful re-telling. This preconference will consider how to gradually tell these more hopeful stories.

Learning objectives

1. You will identify more images that help give voice to shame,
2. You will construct collaborative stories with clients that build on some of these images.
3. You will construct hopeful stories that re-tell your own experience of shame.

### Descriptions, pictures, words

**1. A Definition of shame:** You are unacceptable, unlovable because of something you did, something done to you, or something associated with you – death has encroached. You feel exposed and humiliated. Witnesses

Something you did

- Unacceptable sins
- Corrupted imaginations
- Failure
- Addiction

Something done to you

- Rejection from someone supposed to love
- Siblings favored
- Sexual or physical aggression
- Racism
- Addiction

Someone with who you are associated

- Spouses
- Addictions

**2. Key images:** naked, outcast, unclean (Lev 10:10, 2 Ki 9:35-37, Mal.2:1-3), poor, barren, leper

**3. Related words:** discarded, repulsive, vile, unlovable, loser, inferior, below, scorned, worthless, disgusting, disgrace, less than human, forgotten

Their opposite: honor, worth, glory, crowned, head lifted up, beauty, wealth, belonging, clothed, chosen, known, strong

## The Story

**1. Creation** – created to be close to God

**2. Fall**

Exposed, covered with animal skins  
Cast Out

**3. Redemption begins:** Promises and rescue

Jacob's ladder (Gen 28)  
A taxonomy: Unclean, clean and holy (Lev 10:10)  
A treasured possession, a nation of priests (Ex 19:4-6)  
Going into the holy of holies and eating a meal (Ex 12)  
Priests in detail: clothed then close (Ex 28, Is 59:17, Isa 61:10-11, Isa 54, Zech 3)

**4. THE Priest pursues and descends, heaven and earth meet**

Jesus only pursues outsiders (Luke 4:18–19, Isa 61:1–2)  
The friend of tax collectors and sinners (Matt 11:19)  
An eye for the rejected and distraught (Luke 6:20-22)  
Partial to Samaritans (Jn 4) and unclean women  
A disgraced apostle  
Jesus is the temple and everything in it  
The Priest descends, heaven and earth meet (Jn 1:51, Luke 3:20-21, 9:28-35)  
New boundaries (Matt 15:11, Jn 13)  
The living tabernacle (Jn 1:14, Mt 21:42)  
Jesus enters the farthest reaches of human shame  
The lamb (Jn 1:29)  
“My God, why have you forsaken me” (Matt 27:46)  
Jesus opens the Holy of Holies (Matt 27:51, Heb 10:20)

**5. You are a Priest, We are the Tabernacle**

Live where heaven and earth meet (1 Cor 3, 6; 1 Pet 2:4-5)  
Life is about who we are connected to (Ps 34:5), turn to him (Heb 10:19, Matt 11:28-29)  
Enjoy his hospitality (Isa 55, also Eph 3)  
“Come in, draw nearer”: “progressive nearness” (1 Pet 2:1-2) shine, don't grumble (2 Cor 3:12-18, Phil 2, Jn 17)  
Get your feet washed (Jn 13)  
Learn the culture: Pour out your heart (Ps 62:8)  
Go out – be a portable tabernacle  
Make house calls (1 Cor 7; Eze 47, Jn 7:38-39)  
Pray and intercede (Heb 6:20, 7:25, 9:24)  
Bless (Num 6)  
Build the temple (1 Pet 2:4-5, Eph 4:15-16)

Invite the nations  
Discern – know right from wrong (Rom 12)