

THE BIG IDEA: When the gain exceeds the pain, we celebrate unashamed.

The Take-Off

Over the summer, we've taken 13 weeks and examined 13 words that all start with UN.

We've tried our best to take each week one at a time - to be unscripted - and simply hear what God was saying to us
And today, we're wrapping it all up just before we launch a new season at The Gathering

Next week, things won't be the same. We're going all in - we are choosing to be unwavering in our commitment to an uncontainable kingdom. Because we're undone by Jesus and his presence, we are willing to play the fool and live undignified before men so that we can be unleashed by God to men.

Next Sunday, we'll take a major step in obedience and multiply what we do times 2.

And we're doing it for one very simple reason: what we've experienced from Jesus is too good to keep quiet about.

Paul knew this, too, and so he penned the following words, words that will give us our final UN word of the summer:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel."

Our last un word is UNashamed.

Shame is a powerful tactic of the enemy. He uses it to try to cripple us, nullify us and hinder us. But God is the lifter of our heads - he removes shame by showing us that what we gain is greater than any pain we could face.

We gain a lot as followers of Jesus, and as a result, here are some things we never have to be ashamed of:

1. What Jesus said (Word)

- a. Mark 8:38 - we don't need to be ashamed in the Bible
- b. A lot of people want to make us feel like we don't have brains because we believe the Bible
- c. Forget that there's more textual criticism for the reliability of the Bible you're holding than there is that Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet, there are a lot of reasons we don't need to be ashamed of the Word:
 - It encourages us and leads us to hope (Romans 15:4)
 - It directs us (Psalm 119:105)
 - It leads us to freedom (John 8:31-32)

2. What Jesus did (Gospel)

- a. Paul said that he wasn't ashamed of the Gospel
- b. What is the Gospel?
 - We sin but God saves.
 - Jesus died but rose again.
 - We repent and follow Him.
- c. We can never be ashamed to point people to the cross even though the Gospel doesn't always make sense to everybody. (1 Corinthians 1:18)
- d. Jesus didn't come to be a good man or to be a good example.
- e. He came because man - all of us - is lost and needs to be found. (Luke 19:10)
- f. We must always unapologetically and unashamedly call people to what Jesus did for them.

3. What we say (Testimony)

- a. Don't be ashamed to tell your story.
- b. Paul wrote to Timothy - a young man facing all kinds of church problems - and told him not to be ashamed to testify about the Lord (2 Timothy 1:8)
- c. The story of what Jesus has done in your life has power to break us free!
- d. Revelation 12:11 says it's half of the formula that overcomes.
- e. We get embarrassed and look down when we should be empowered and speak up about what Jesus has done in our lives!
- f. What has Jesus done for you in this place? What stories could you tell about His faithfulness to you since you've been near Him at The Gathering?

4. What we face (Suffering)

- a. Paul encouraged Timothy not to be ashamed of the things that he would face or that Paul was facing
- b. Sometimes when we start telling stories, we can feel ashamed if our Christian life doesn't seem "normal"

- c. But Paul didn't stop testifying when things got bad - he wasn't ashamed of his suffering
 - 2 Tim. 1:8 - don't be ashamed of me in prison
 - 2 Tim. 1:12 - I'm not ashamed of my sufferings
 - 2 Tim. 1:16 - Onesiphorous wasn't ashamed of my chains and refreshed me
- d. Stop hiding your scars in shame and tell the story that led to them.
- e. Knowing the story can change everything (Share from "If God is Good" pages 22-23)
- f. This is a place where we struggle and overcome, and the scars we have are not signs of defeat but of victory!
- g. Paul wrote in Galatians 6:17 that he bore the marks of Jesus in his body - scars from physical suffering

5. Where we live (Home)

- a. This world - for all it's faults and problems - is pretty good, but pretty good isn't the best.
- b. Sometimes we fall into the trap of trying to fit in here so much that we forget that we're on our way there.
- c. In Hebrews 11, the author wrote about great men and women of faith who were admittedly - unashamedly - strangers and aliens on earth.
- d. Verse 16 says that they wanted something more - they wanted to go home.
- e. They weren't ashamed of where they lived.
- f. We have a home that is better than this world, and we are not ashamed of that.

The Landing

What's the takeaway from this? How do our lives look because of these points?

Let's see if a video can help clarify it, and then we'll wrap it up with the Big Idea.

[TPIR winners]

When the gain exceeds the pain, we celebrate unashamed.

People don't dance like that in the grocery aisle because they got a 10% off coupon.

They dance like that because what they won is far greater than any embarrassment they might feel as a result of the celebration.

Paul wrote that what we've gained in Christ is more valuable than even the best of this world. He called everything a loss compared to the greatness of Jesus.

When we get that, our lives will become one long unashamed celebration (minus the splits!).