

Sermon Title: Fully Alive- Silencing Shame

Sermon Scripture: Zechariah 3:1-5



## **Sermon Discussion Guide (7/05)**

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

### **Scripture**

Read Zechariah 3:1-5 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

### **Observation**

What do the filthy clothes represent in this passage? Why do you think it is significant that Joshua doesn't just try to wash the dirt and filth off the clothes himself?

What do the new, clean clothes represent? What does this passage reveal to us about the work and character of God?

Read Genesis 1:27. What does this passage reveal about the ultimate identity of people? Why do you think God, out of His own free-will, chose to make humanity in His image?

Read John 10:10. What are the implications of this verse for our understanding of grace? What are the implications of this verse for our understanding of shame or regret?

## **Application**

When have you experienced the shame and regret of your failures keeping you from being fully alive to serve, to trust, to worship, and/or to love?

If you were in the place of Joshua at the beginning of this passage, how would you feel knowing that all of your sin, failures, and mistakes were laid in the open before a holy and sinless God? How would you feel when the dirty clothes (your past sin and failure) were removed and replaced with clean clothes (the grace and righteousness of Christ)? Now, consider that if you follow Jesus, this exchange of dirty to clean has already taken place in your life? What thoughts or feelings does knowing this truth lead you to have?

When you hear the enemy try to define you by your failure, what would it look like in practical terms for you to remind yourself of the truth of your identity found in God?

Pastor Kenny closed his sermon by asking us, "What stain have you allowed to become a label? What shame have you worn for too long now?" How would you answer this question? How will you take one step this week to more fully receive God's grace and step into the life of being fully alive?

## **Prayer**

God, we thank You for Your overflowing grace and unfailing love for us. We ask that You would teach us once again that our life and our identity is found in You. May we experience Your presence reminding us that we belong to You. Help us to hear Your voice above all our fears and doubts and lead us in being the people that You have created and called us to be. Guide us in receiving Your forgiveness and walking in the freedom from shame that only You can provide. Amen.