

Another Reason to Live for Jesus Now (Luke 9:26)

1. Because We Have Been Saved _____ Jesus...

a. _____: We Have Believed in Jesus' Special Identity

¹⁸ And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

¹⁹ So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again."

²⁰ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."

b. _____: We Have Believed in Jesus' Substitutionary Activity

²¹ And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one,

²² saying, "The Son of Man must (*dei*) suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

2. ...We Are to Be Living _____ Jesus

a. Because living for Jesus is our _____ to Him

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

- Deny (x!) Yourself: Say NO to Self
- Take Up (x!) Your Cross Daily: Say YES to Death
- Be Following (~!) Jesus: Continually Obedying Jesus

b. Because living for Jesus earns _____ from Him

²⁴ "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

- Seeking to preserve your life will only waste it
- Wasting your life for Jesus' sake will preserve it

²⁵ "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

- Obedying Jesus Is the Ultimate Life Achievement
- All that can possibly be gained in this life is eternal waste
- There are only two possible ways to live your life:
 - 1) Living for yourself, and losing the point and purpose of life
 - 2) Living for Jesus, and gaining eternal rewards & blessings

c. Because living for Jesus gains a _____ by Him

²⁶ "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

What Does It Mean to Be Ashamed?

1. Is it something we do to earn or validate our salvation? NO

- a. Belief: We know that we are saved by believing in Jesus identity (who He is) and Jesus' activity (what He has done – He died for us and rose again): John 3:18, 36; Acts 16:31; Rom 4:5; Gal 2:16.
- b. Works?: We are not saved, kept saved, or proven to be saved by anything we do. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes this clear, as do many other passages (Rom 3:10, 22; 4:5). We cannot confuse or mix salvation with our own actions, or it undermines what the Bible clearly teaches.

2. Of what should we not be ashamed?

- a. The _____ – Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- b. The _____ of Our Lord – 2 Tim. 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,
- c. Those _____ for the Lord – 2 Tim. 1:16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;
- d. Our _____ Suffering for the Lord – 2 Tim. 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Phil. 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

1 Pet. 4:16 Yet if *anyone* suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

3. What approval does Jesus seek to give?

In whatever ways we respond before others regarding Jesus (the Savior) and His words (the Scriptures) is how Jesus will greet us when He returns. Jesus' shame does not seem to be for punishment but rather results from disappointment. Can Jesus celebrate meeting someone who has ignored Him and disobeyed Him?

Jesus' _____: Heb. 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, Heb. 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Jesus' _____: 1 Jn. 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.