

SUNDAY - September 20, 2026

UNASHAMED - Romans 3:19-22

SERMON SUMMARY:

Exodus 19 portrays God inviting Israel to meet him on the mountain, yet the people hold back; their inability to ascend brings a host of laws and ultimately a tabernacle so God can dwell at a distance. Repeated patterns emerge: people fail, the law multiplies, and presence remains mediated. Moses himself never enters the promised land, while Joshua and Caleb—those who trusted God’s generosity—do. The law’s design, therefore, functions as a mirror to expose sin and show the need for a redeemer, not as the ladder to earn acceptance.

Romans 3:21–22 supplies the remedy: righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ apart from works of the law. Hebrews 4:16 invites bold access to God’s throne by grace, not by human merit. Illustrations underscore assurance: acceptance by God does not rest on moral condition but on union with the spotless Lamb. The covenantal thread from Genesis through the Pentateuch culminates in Christ, revealing salvation as God’s promise received by faith. The result of grasping this truth should be confidence rooted in God’s generosity, a transformed sense of worth, and a life shaped not by fragile achievement but by belonging to the King and living out that identity with courage.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 3:19-22, Genesis 26:4-5, Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 15:5-6, Isaiah 5:7, Exodus 19, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 40:34-35, Genesis 3:15, Hebrews 11, Hebrews 4:16,

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 3:19-20, what are the three things the law does, and what is the one thing it cannot do?
2. What was Abraham’s response to God’s promise in Genesis 15:6, and how did God count that response?
3. In Exodus 19, what was God’s invitation to the people, and how did they respond when the trumpet sounded?
4. What is the means of righteousness presented in Romans 3:21-22, and how is it described as being received?
5. Why would God give the law if it cannot justify a person? What is its intended purpose in our lives?
6. Abraham was declared righteous long before the law was given. What does this tell us about God’s primary desire for humanity throughout the entire biblical story?
7. The people at Mount Sinai were invited into God’s presence but held back. What does this pattern of failure, more laws, and mediated presence reveal about our need for a Savior?
8. How does the illustration of the crumpled \$100 bill help explain our acceptance before God? Why does our condition not affect our standing?
9. The law shows us our sin but cannot save us. When you feel distant from God, what is your natural tendency—to try harder to follow rules, or to turn to Jesus in faith? Be specific about a recent situation.
10. Abraham’s faith was a decisive “Amen” to God’s promise. Is there a specific promise from God you find difficult to believe right now? What would it look like to say “Amen” to it this week?
11. Hebrews 4:16 invites us to approach God’s throne with confidence. How would your prayer life change if you truly believed your access was based on Christ’s perfection and not your own performance?
12. Our identity rests in being a son or daughter of the King. How does knowing your worth is based on Christ’s work and not your behavior empower you to resist shame, temptation, or the pressure to perform for others?
13. The enemy often attacks by saying, “You are not welcome here.” What specific lie about your acceptance by God do you most often struggle with? How can you use the truth of the gospel to fight it today?
14. Joshua and Caleb entered the Promised Land because they trusted God’s generosity. What “giant” are you facing where you need to choose to trust God’s goodness over your own fear or ability?