



JOURNEY FROM PORN STAR TO PREACHER

with Joshua Broome

▶ FOCUS VERSE

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 1:18

▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Talk about Joshua’s statement early in the podcast that men’s deep-seated desire to achieve, to be “the best” at something, can often lead us to think we can be our own saviors. (See *Ecclesiastes 2:4-11.*)**
 - a. Have you ever had a talent or ability that you put a great deal of effort into because you thought it might make you “invincible” in a way—to self-doubt, to criticism, to rules?
 - b. What mistakes or bad decisions did that arrogance cause you to make?
- 2. When you were young and still forming ideas about relationships, what was your model for what true love looked like?**
 - a. Was it your parents’ marriage, a relationship you witnessed elsewhere in your life, or—as in Joshua’s case—something else entirely?
 - b. Was that model healthy or constructive?
 - c. In retrospect, did it teach you the right things about loving and valuing others?



3. **“If you don’t have a good reason to say no to something you ought not do,” Joshua says, “you’ll say yes.”** *(See Joshua 24:15.)*
- Have you ever done something selfish or ill-advised for no other reason than because you couldn’t come up with a reason not to?
 - What do you know now that you wish you’d known then?
4. **Joshua says he quickly regretted appearing in his first porn film, but the shame of it—and of his hometown’s reaction to it—caused him to believe a porn star was all he could ever be.** *(See 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 3:3.)*
- Have you ever done something you knew wasn’t a good idea, but you thought it was the only path because shame convinced you that you weren’t good enough for anything else?
5. **Reflecting on the distinction Joshua draws between guilt and shame, think of a time in your life when you did something wrong, felt bad about it, and vowed to confess and change course.** *(See Romans 8:1.)*
- What were the differences between that situation and the shame situation you talked about in question 4?
 - What were some constructive steps you could’ve taken following the situation from question 4, but didn’t because shame made you think there was no point?
6. **Of all your friends and/or family members, who are the ones most likely to call you out with honest, good-faith criticism when you’ve done something wrong?** *(See Proverbs 27:6.)*
- Have you ever chafed at their advice?
 - What is it about those people that has made you want to keep them in your life, even though their honest assessments can sting a little?



7. Is there anything good about your life today that at one time you'd given up hope it would ever happen? (See *Isaiah 61:3*.)

a. What changed that turned that hope from an impossibility to reality?

b. Do you see God at work anywhere in those changes?

8. Joshua talks about how our efforts at atonement and restoration can be derailed if we're still focusing too much on other people's perception of us and not on God's. (See *Galatians 1:10*.)

a. Of all the aspects of your life, what's the area where you find yourself worrying the most about what other people think of you?

b. What are some ways in which that preoccupation with other people's opinions might be drawing you away from God's purpose for your life?

