



“Security Tag”

By Shelley Hitz

Welcome to the Find Your True Beauty Podcast! Girls, it’s time to take a stand for true beauty. In a world that idolizes outer beauty, let’s come together and learn to display our true beauty in Christ. Remember to check out all our free resources at our website, FindYourTrueBeauty.com, to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. We are here to encourage and support you so check them out. It’s FindYourTrueBeauty.com.

I want to talk to you about the security tag. Have you been shopping lately? Well, if you have you will know what I mean when I say security tag. They are those tags put on clothes in the store to keep you from walking out with them. They are kind of like a plastic piece attached to your pants or your sweater or the things which are usually more expensive. Let’s say you go to that store, you put on a pair of pants that has a security tag on it and you walk out of the store. What is going to happen? An alarm is going to go off, right? It is going to alert the store and the security staff that somebody is trying to steal something from their store. Who is the only person who can take that security tag off? If you try to take it off yourself in the dressing room, what is probably going to happen to those pants? They are probably going to get ripped or some of the security tags even have a way where ink comes out of them and could stain your pants. It is probably going to ruin them. So, you have to take them to the cashier and pay your money> Then, the clerk has that little device and can pop off that tag and you are good to go.

Well, let’s just say that security tag represents sin. Sin is the way we have missed God’s mark, so to speak, in our lives or just a brokenness. The stuff we have done or the stuff which has been done against us. To know what sin is you can just take a quick look at the Ten Commandments and see what God’s standards are. “You shall not lie.” Have you ever told a lie? “Don’t steal.” Have you ever stolen something, even something really small? The list goes on and on and they even talk about not committing adultery. Well, Jesus talked about even if you lust after someone in your heart you have committed adultery with them in your heart. I know for me I have committed all of those. I was caught stealing a tube of lipstick when I was in high school. Yes, not cars, not anything big, not jewelry or anything, I was trying to steal a tube of lipstick. One of those undercover cop-type people who looks for shoplifters during the holiday season caught me and I got in trouble for it. You may have stolen something small or maybe something big, but I think if we are honest we have all sinned in some way. You could imagine that we are walking around with that security tag of sin on us.

Now, who is the only person who can take that sin from us? The Bible says that the only one who can take our sin from us is Jesus. No other religion, nothing we do, no amount of good works can get rid or take off that sin from us. Jesus has come to forgive us of that sin. If we try to get rid of it on our own, we are probably going to make a mess because we just can't do it. We need Jesus. So, someday we are going to face what is called, "Judgment Day". We are going to face Christ and have to answer to Him for what we have done while in the body whether good or bad. If we go up there with our sin with that "security tag" and we walk through the gates of heaven what is going to happen? An alarm is going to go off, so to speak. God is going to know that we have that sin and that we are carrying that sin with us. But, if we come to Him this side of heaven and we are truly repentant, we have realized the ways that we have done wrong against God and we are sorry for that and we repent of those sins, not just saying we want to do different but actually through Christ's power doing different. Our life changes. We have a hunger for God, for his Word, for doing what He has commanded us. We have His love, his Holy Spirit that is in us. His love, His joy, His peace not to process. It is not going to be an instant thing, but we begin to change.

Psalm 130, verses 3 through 4 says, "If you, oh Lord, kept a record of sins, oh Lord who could stand." That is how I feel today. I wouldn't be able to stand. Then, it goes on and says, "but with You, there is forgiveness. Therefore, You are feared." I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." In Hebrews 10:17, God says, "There are sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." I love the way Corey ten Boon says it. She says it is as if God has this huge ocean of grace and love and He puts our sins in it and he puts up a sign which says no fishing allowed.

So, I want to ask you today. What are you doing with that security tag of sin in your life? Maybe there is stuff which has been done against you and maybe it is stuff that you have done. Have you brought it to Jesus? He can take care of it. He wants to forgive you, but you have to come to Him and ask him and then have true repentance in your life where you decide through Jesus' power that you are going to live differently.



Shelley Hitz is an ordinary person, just like you, with struggles and trials. And yet, God is doing extra-ordinary things through this "jar of clay." 2 Cor 4:7 says, *"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

Her heart is to help teen girls and women through her website, www.FindYourTrueBeauty.com, that reaches thousands of people each month around the world with God's truth. She is also the author of the book, "Mirror Mirror...Am I Beautiful" and has co-authored a book with her husband CJ, "The Mathematics of Jesus,

Making Sense of Life When Life Doesn't Seem to Add Up." Shelley's openness and vulnerability as she shares her own story of hope and healing will inspire and encourage you.

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