

Overcoming Failure By Encountering Jesus!

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“After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and revealed himself in this way...Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing...This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.” (John 21:1, 3, 14)

SUMMARY:

Ever felt like a failure or experienced failure first hand? Peter could have been the ‘poster child’ for one who failed...and he did it big time. In this very moving and meaningful passage from the pen of the beloved disciple, John, he includes this poignant encounter of the Resurrected Lord with one who denied Him. Isn’t it like our loving Lord to not condemn (as some would, see Romans 8:1), but to strive to ‘restore’ Peter from his fallen state into a fruitful state. Here’s a man who is resorting to what he knew best—fishing, yet the Lord had much greater plans for this disciple in the future (21:3; Jeremiah 29:11; Acts 2:14ff). This passage is not included by ‘co-incidence’ but providentially by ‘God-incidence’ in order to encourage us when we fail the Lord. Praise God that He is a God of the second, third, twentieth, etc. opportunities! We may fail, but He never fails us!

NOTES:

Can you identify with Peter? Ever done something that you feel like you have been a ‘failure’ at in your life? Maybe it was a job, a marriage, raising your children, developing meaningful relationships with people. The word ‘failure’ can be defined as: “not succeed, to stop short of, to miss the mark, to turn out badly, to bomb, to flop.” Let’s see what our Lord would remind us of through this encounter with Peter as we potentially would face these very same times in our lives:

- I. Reduplication of the Call
- II. Reminder of His Care
- III. Refocus of Commitment

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question:

Let’s get transparent with each other...share a time when you felt like you ‘failed’ someone or you ‘failed’ the Lord.

Discussion:

- The enemy of our souls wants us to be reminded of all our ‘failures.’ What do you do when the devil throws up your ‘past’ shortcomings in your face?
- Celebrate a recent ‘victory’ that you can share with the men at your table of something in your faith-walk.
- Did you notice how Jesus lovingly takes Peter back to the place where He originally ‘called’ him? How important is our testimony to us at times when we have ‘failed’ in our faith?

APPLICATION:

If you have experienced a sense of ‘failure’ do you need to seek God’s forgiveness in order to be restored? (1Jn. 1:9)

If you have been condemning toward someone who has ‘failed’ in some way, do you need to seek their forgiveness? (Matthew 5:22-24).

Have you failed to forgive yourself for some sin that you have committed in your life? (Psalm 103:10-12; Hebrews 10:17; Phil. 3:13)

At times of failure,

Remember His Word...He is truth and His truth will set you free!

Rejoice at His Work...He still performs miracles!

Rekindle Your Witness...Your passion for Christ should be priority!