

Second Chances

Have you ever had really good intentions to do something and it just didn't turn out like you planned?

- Purchased a musical instrument with plans to be a great musician, but never learned to play (thought it would be easier)
- Bought an old car to fix up and restore, but never completed it
- Started a diet or workout program, (and traded it in for a recliner and ice cream cone)
- Maybe started Financial Peace University and took out a loan before the course was finished!!!

I believe we have all experienced this in one way or another...

- And entered in with high expectations...
- Truly believing we would achieve our goals!!
- But sometimes things just don't work out as we planned...

That's what I want to talk about today in this follow up to Easter...

There's a verse in The Bible where we see Peter very ambitious in a goal...and let's see how things worked out for Him....

Matthew 26:31-35

“Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.”

Even though Jesus stated that all would be made to stumble...

- Fall short of their goals
- To an extent...Fail...

Peter argued that he would never fail Jesus...

Jesus got very specific with him...

- Not only will you be proven wrong
 - It will happen tonight
 - You will deny me three times...
- Of course, Peter knew better...(sarcastically)

What about you?

- Do you sometimes get a little over confident in yourself?
- Do you sometimes put yourself where Peter was...
- Not me, I will never fail You Lord!!!

The fact is... Peter did deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed, just like Jesus said....

- And believe it or not, you will too...

Here's the real question...

- How will you handle it when you do?

After the crucifixion, and after the resurrection, The Bible gives us a glimpse of how Peter handled it...

John 3:21

“Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.”

Peter considered himself a failure after denying Christ three times... Often times when we identify ourselves with our failure (claiming to be a failure) we revert back to a former version of ourselves...

In this case, Peter went back to his former occupation,

- a fisherman (remember Jesus told him that if he followed Him, he would no longer be a fisherman, but become a fisher of men")

This can also show itself by reverting back to old habits and lifestyles(drinking, drugs, cussing, bad relationships)

All of these things are in you past for a reason...

- they were preventing you from fulfilling your destiny

And if you take a close look at this verse...

- It's not very hard to get people to jump into the boat with you when you go back... (misery loves company...)

There's so much in this chapter, I can't cover it all today...

- Jesus showed up on the shore
- Told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat
- They caught so much the net almost broke!! (I will talk more about this next week)

But I do want to mention this:

John 21:14

“This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.”

- Peter denied Jesus three times
- Jesus rose on the third day

Now when the men came ashore, Jesus had a conversation with Peter

John 21:15-17

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love** Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me?**” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me?**” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me?**” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”

Here we find the great Second Chance!!!

Where Jesus restores Peter to his calling and his place of favor!!

Notice how Jesus never asked;

- "Did you deny Me?"

- "Did you fail Me?"

Jesus knew that Peter had already beat himself up enough over that....

Instead, Jesus wanted to affirm Peter's love by reaffirming His own love to him...

- Jesus was more interested in Peter moving forward in His calling that holding him accountable for his failure...

Three times Peter denied Jesus....

Three times Peter told Jesus he loved Him!!

I've heard it preached that Jesus rubbed Peter's nose in this a little by doing this.... (truth is I've preached it that way myself...)

I now believe Jesus was simply using this as a teaching moment that Peter will share with others one day...

I Peter 4:8

"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins.""

Don't let failure keep you down!!

- Repent and move on!!

Henry Ford said it like this

- "The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing."

If something has happened...

- You have went back to some old ways
- Feel like you've let Jesus down
- Failed

Jesus forgave Peter

- Restored him
- Gave him a second chance!!

And He wants to give you a second chance too

- Law forgave seven times...
- Grace forgives 70x7!!

All Jesus wants to hear from you today is

- Jesus, I love you!!