

- Practice the discipline of imaginative contemplation by thinking of one of your failures and then placing yourself in Peter's sandals on the boat and continue all the way through the restoration Jesus offers.

- Why is being restored to service so important for our lives and our relationship with God?

- Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

Missional Application

God calls us to demonstrate our love for Jesus by following and serving him and his people, no matter where the journey might lead and no matter what happens to other followers.

Christ Connection

Through his breakfast encounter with his disciples, Jesus showed the reality of his restorative power. Because He fulfilled God's plan to rescue people from sin, Jesus was able to forgive the disciples for their sins and failures and then recommission them in their task of following him.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Jesus the Risen King (Part 4)

"How Jesus Restores You When You Fail"

John 21:1-19

We're talking about how Jesus restores us from the kind of failure where we blow it and there's no one to blame but ourselves.

Peter's Gospel Portrait

Peter's greatest failure came shortly after one of his greatest triumphs.

"It took guts to say [that], and Jesus knew it. If it was true, it was enough to blow the lid off everything. If it wasn't true, you could get yourself stoned to death as a blasphemer for just thinking it."

Failure often follows our greatest triumphs.

Peter's Restoration (and Ours)

The denial that had created a chasm between Peter and Jesus had to be crossed.

God wants to restore you after failure. And he can.

If we want to find restoration after failure, we have to step into the space our failure has created between us and God.

When we step into the space between us and God, we're stepping into the space of God's love and grace.

Restored for Relationship *and* Service

Three times Jesus does the most remarkable thing—he re-commissions Peter for service.

We respond in different ways when we sense our guilt before God:

- We become determined to make it up to God.

- We become despondent and hide.

Jesus opposes both ways of living. He doesn't desire service motivated by guilt (or a drivenness to prove ourselves to others) and he calls us out of our pity party.

Step out of our guilt and shame and begin to serve others.

Family Discussion Questions

1. Given Peter's denial of Jesus on the night of his arrest, how do you think Peter felt when Jesus appeared with the disciples before this event in John 21?
2. Sometimes we feel God is just angry with us for failing him, but what do we learn from this passage about what God wants when we fail him?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?
4. How do you feel when you confess your sin to God and others?

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Why is it so hard to bounce back from big failures?
3. Read John 21:1-19. What makes Peter's failure so monumental?
4. Where else do you see God initiating restoration in the rest of the story of God?