

I Messed Up! Now What?

Failure is only final when we hold ourselves in contempt and say it is final. In week 2 of our ETA series, Pastor Jason talks about the restorative power of Jesus and 3 restoring reminders when we mess up.

John 21:1-7 NIV "Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water."

John 21:15-17 NIV "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

We all have done something where we just come face to face with it and realize we just messed up. Peter messed up big time. Peter denied Jesus 3 times. Now I don't know what you have done to mess up but this one is pretty bad. This story is a reminder that Jesus is a restorer. No matter what you may have done, Jesus can restore you.

3 Restoring Reminders When We Mess Up:

1. God meets us where we are!

John 6:66-68 NIV "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

When Peter messed up he went back to what he knew. This is a temptation for all of us. But here is a major problem: once you are a part of what Jesus is a part of, how can you go back? Once He changes your life, how can you go back to how you were before? When you have tasted and seen that the Lord is good you can go back and look at how you once were but you can't go back to being that person.

Discussion Question 1: What's a moment you can look back on in life and it reminds you of how good the Lord has been to you?

2. Failure isn't Final or Fatal!

Failure is only final when we hold ourselves in contempt and say it is final.

John 21:15 NIV "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

Simon, son of John? That was a big deal! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter but in this moment called Him Simon, son of John. Peter went back to His old way so Jesus met him where he went back to in order to bring Peter forward into the name He had already changed for him.

John 1:42 NIV "Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter)."

You may have changed your decision but God has never changed His mind!

Discussion Question 2: What are some times where you failed and it ultimately made you better?

3. The Driving Force is Love!

I want to challenge you today to what may seem as the simplest part of the scripture but the simplest part carries the most weight and the possibility to change everything. This part is the driving force, this part is what determines whether you enjoy a relationship with God or endure the rules handed out. This part is the battle between the head and the heart.

John 14:15 NIV “If you love me, keep my commands.”

It's easy to read that scripture and think that Jesus is putting more weight on the side of keeping His commands. In reality, Jesus is saying that if you will just focus on loving Him, keeping His commands will come naturally. It will simply be a byproduct of following Him.

Discussion Question 3: What side of the comma in that scripture do you feel as though you have put more weight on in your life?