

From Failure to Hope

Never Be The Same Again- Part 3

Connect: What is your favorite “come back” story, real or fictional, and why?

Hook: Pastor Brandon taught a great lesson on the day that Jesus, after His resurrection, found the disciples on the lake fishing. Jesus performs another miracle and then invites them to the shoreline for an early morning breakfast and a conversation that would change them forever. In many ways, the conversation that transpired on the seashore really began days earlier when Jesus warned Peter that a spiritual failure was on his horizon. Even then, Jesus would give the disciples encouragement that there was hope after failure.

Book:

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.

Luke 22:32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to Me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:33 Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with You, and even to die with You."

Luke 22:34 But Jesus said, "Peter, let Me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know Me."

Luke 22:35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you out to preach the Good News and you did not have money, a traveler's bag, or an extra pair of sandals, did you need anything?" "No," they replied.

Luke 22:36 "But now," He said, "take your money and a traveler's bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one!

Luke 22:37 For the time has come for this prophecy about Me to be fulfilled: 'He was counted among the rebels.' Yes, everything written about Me by the prophets will come true."

Luke 22:38 "Look, Lord," they replied, "we have two swords among us." "That's enough," He said.

Look:

In your life experience, what has been some of the causes for failures in your life?

According to Luke 22:31, what might be another reason for spiritual failure?

Why would God allow Satan to “sift” us?

Read verses 33-24 again. Sometimes having a “blind spot” can hinder success. Did Peter have a blind spot and what was it?

Key Truth: When we fail the Lord, His grace points the way back and gives us hope.

In our text, what do you see that encourages you or leads you to believe there is hope after failure?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Discuss the following scriptures: Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, and Philippians 1:6

Illustration: In the highlands of Scotland, sheep occasionally wander off among the rocky crags and get themselves trapped on dangerous ledges. They leap down to get the sweet grass on a ledge, but they can't get back up. A shepherd will allow the helpless animal to remain there for days, until it becomes so weak that it's unable to stand up. Finally, he ties a rope around himself and goes over the ledge to rescue the straying sheep.

You may ask, "Why doesn't the shepherd go down right away?" The answer is that the sheep are so foolish that they would dash right over the precipice and be killed if the shepherd didn't wait until their strength was nearly gone. ("Our Daily Bread," Winter, 1980.)

Discuss the merits of the following statement: Spiritual growth means to recognize our weakness and the Source of our strength. When do we see that strength at work in our lives?

How can we hold on to faith in a time of trial or temptation? Why is this essential?

Where is the balance between God's keeping power and our responsibility to keep ourselves from sin?