

BIG PROBLEMS? BIGGER GOD!

Part 5: The PROBLEM of SINFUL FAILURE

INTRO: Failure is normal and human. One of the ugly realities of life. No one, even the best and smartest, escape failure. We must embrace failure as a fact of life but never as a way of life. Failure is not always because we have sinned. Maybe we: failed to plan, were proud, risk averse, gave up too soon, didn't seek wisdom, wrong view of success, etc. Whatever the cause we must learn from our failure and build a better future. But, what about our failures due to our sins. Ex: Eve & Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Solomon, David, Elijah, Demas, Paul, . . . PETER best example of all on failure from sins and how to recover from them. My favorite biblical character since much like Peter. Look at Peter's sinful failures and how to move forward from them.

I. PETER'S FAILURES WERE COMMON

- A. Peter Experienced Many Failures—At least 9 are recorded (he was one of Jesus' closest followers!).
1. He sank when he took his eyes off Jesus—Matt. 14:29-30.
 2. He verbally rebuked Jesus (not a good idea)—Matt. 16:22-23.
 3. He wrongly compared Jesus with mere mortal men—Matt. 17:1-5
 4. He refused (at first) for Jesus to wash his feet—John 13:8.
 5. He slept through prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane—Matt. 26:40-43.
 6. He tried to defend Jesus and cut off Malchus' ear—John 18:10.
 7. He denied any association with Jesus three times—John 18:25-27.
 8. He quit the ministry and returned to fishing—John 21:3.
 9. He was hypocritical about fellowshiping with Gentile believers—Gal. 2:11-14.
- B. Peter's Biggest Failure Was Denial/Desertion
1. Predicted (Lk. 22:31-34; Jn. 13:31-34)
 2. Reasons he failed? (Matt. 26:30-75)
- *Arrogance* (vv. 30-35)—He boasted too much. Overestimated his own strength
 - *Defiance* (vv. 34-35)—He argued with God. He was warned (Jn. 6:66-69). When we refuse to listen to God, failure is inevitable. God is never wrong about us

- *Negligence* (vv. 36-46)—He neglected the important. He should have been praying not sleeping. Failure comes when we neglect the basic disciplines.
- *Impulsiveness* (vv. 47-54)—He acted too fast. He took matters into his own hands and got ahead of God. "Then" (vv.55-56) . . .
- *Distance* (vv. 57-58)—He followed too far. He ended up with the wrong crowd in the wrong place. No wonder he failed. Result? (vv. 69-74) Heartbreaking. As long as he lived, he'd never forget that night. But not the end of the story.

II. PETER'S RECOVERY WAS PROMISED (Lk. 22:31-32)

What did Peter do to recover from his sinful failure? How did he go from desertion to restoration? Matt. 26:75

- A. He Recognized His Failure (v. 75) Own it!
- B. He Remembered the Warning (v. 75)
- C. He Removed Himself. He "went out" (v. 75). He got alone to face God.
- D. He Repented of His Failure (v. 75; Lk. 22:60-62). Jesus "looked at him." He was broken.

Now, Jesus' response as He enters picture post Resurrection

1. He sent for Peter (Mk. 16:7)
2. He met with Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:4-5)—don't know when or where.

To John 21 . . . about 3 days later. Now in Galilee (Matt. 26:31-32).

1. He challenged Peter (21:1-14; Lk. 5:1-11) "charcoal fire" (v. 9; Jn. 18:18).
2. He restored him (vv. 15-17)
3. He reinstated him (vv. 18-19)

Jesus wants to do the same with our sinful failure, Peter is forever changed and more committed than ever. What a transformation of Peter in the book of Acts 2-5. Peter says the miraculous (ch. 2), does the miraculous (ch. 3), shows miraculous courage (chs. 4-5).

CONC: Failure, even tragic sinful failure doesn't have to be final. Jesus is God of multiple chances. One other disciple heard that rooster crow—Judas! Judas refused to repent; couldn't handle his failure; refused to seek forgiveness and took his own life. Peter responded, was restored, and reinstated. Is rooster crowing for you today?