

Now What? When You've Failed...

John 21:15-19

THE BIG IDEA:

Peter is known not only as chief among the apostles, but also as the one who denied Jesus. In this study, we will look at how the Lord was at work in Peter and how even this failure is not lost in the hands of our Lord.

OPENING:

How do you define “humility”? Read Proverbs 22:4, Philippians 2:5-8, and Luke 14:11. Is humility a value of the Christian faith? A Virtue? A manifestation of the character of Christ? How is acknowledging one’s need for forgiveness and accepting Christ as one’s Savior an act of humility?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Reflect on Mark 14:27-31. Do you think Peter is genuine, arrogant, sincere or prideful? Notice how the Lord knows what Peter is going to do yet He still loves him and includes him in the small group to pray in the garden in John 14:33. Ask the Spirit of God to show you how He has been devoted to you even in the midst of your failures.

Read Mark 16:6-7. Why do you think Peter is singled out by the angel?

Read John 21:1-23. Is there any evidence that might lead you to believe that Peter gave up on himself? Do you think that Peter considered himself disqualified as a disciple? In what ways did Peter's understanding of himself change? What about his understanding of Jesus' love for him?

Was this the evil one’s plan to destroy Peter (Luke 21:31)? How did God use this to prepare Peter for the ministry which God had called him to?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Look back over your life and think about a time where you failed yourself in a way that surprised you. Rather than being burdened by the guilt of it, come before the Lord in humility, acknowledge your failure and any prideful confidence that you were “above” doing such a thing. Tell Him of your love for Him and receive His forgiveness.

Think about a time when someone failed you. What would the Lord have you do about it?

PRAYER: