

GOD'S MERCY & YOUR FAILURES

The Miracle of Mercy – Part 3

April 30, 2017

WHAT CAUSES OUR PERSONAL FAILURES?

3 Things Peter Did Wrong

1. We overestimate our strength.

Matthew 26:33&35 (NLT) *“Peter declared, ‘Even if everyone else deserts You, I will never desert You.’³⁵ ‘No!’ Peter insisted. ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You!’ And all the other disciples vowed the same.”*

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT) *“If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.”*

2. We fear the disapproval of others.

Matthew 26:58a,69b-70a (NIV) *“But Peter followed Him at a distance...⁶⁹ ...a servant girl came to him. ‘You also were with Jesus of Galilee,’ she said.⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all.”*

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) *“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.”*

3. We speak without thinking.

Matthew 26:71b-72a,73-74 (TLB) *“...another girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus—from Nazareth.’⁷² Again Peter denied it...⁷³ But after a while the men who had been standing there came over to him and said, ‘We know you are one of His disciples, for we can tell by your Galilean accent.’⁷⁴ Peter began to curse and swear. ‘I don’t even know the Man,’ he said. And immediately the rooster crowed.”*

James 3:5a (TLB) *“So also the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.”*

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU FAIL?

3 Things Peter Did Right

1. You grieve!

Matthew 26:75 (NASB) *“And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, ‘Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.”*

Psalms 51:17 (NCV) *“The sacrifice God wants is a broken spirit. God, You will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry for sin.”*

2. Let your small group support you.

Mark 16:10 (NIV) (Easter morning) *“She went and told those who had been with Him and who were mourning and weeping.”*

John 20:19a (NIV) (Easter night) *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together...”*

John 20:26a (NIV) *“A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.”*

3. Cast yourself on God’s mercy.

1 Peter 1:3b (GNT) *“Because of His great mercy He gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope...”*

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”*

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH YOUR FAILURES?

1. He isn’t shocked.

Psalms 103:14 (GW) *“He certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.”*

2. He prays for you!

Luke 22:31-32a (TLB) *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have you, to sift you like wheat,³² but I have pleaded in prayer for you that your faith should not completely fail.”*

3. He believes in you!

Luke 22:32b (TLB) *“So when you have repented and turned to Me again...”*

Mark 16:7a (NIV) *“But go, tell His disciples and Peter...”*

4. He shows you mercy when you’re down.

John 21:1a&14 (NIV) *“Afterward Jesus appeared again to His disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.¹⁴ This was now the third-time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.”*

Lamentations 3:22-23 (RSV) *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end;²³ they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”*

5. He uses your failures to build His church!

Matthew 16:18 (NLT) *“Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”*