

SERMON: Failure and Restoration in Following Jesus

March 4, 2018

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 14:66-72.

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Sting of Failure
- II. The Hope of Restoration
- III. The Power for Restoration

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Think through Peter's failure together. In what way is he on trial at the same time that Jesus is on trial? How does this picture the substitution of Christ for us?
2. Have you ever felt like you have failed Christ? Are there any areas of your life where you might be denying Christ? Have you ever felt like God can't use you because of your sin or past failures?
3. Read John 21:15-19. Jesus lovingly restores Peter to ministry. How does Peter show humility? How does this story encourage you personally? What would it take for you to believe that Jesus has restored you, and wants to use you for his church?
4. Pastor Mark pointed out that Peter had to be the eyewitness source for this story of his own failing. What lesson can we learn from this? How does the cross of Jesus allow us to share our failures with others without shame?
5. Which of these truths of our restoration through Christ stands out to you or encourages you the most? Why?
 - a. Restoration gives peace and comfort through the forgiveness of Christ.
 - b. Restoration frees us from guilt and shame by the righteousness of Christ.
 - c. Restoration frees us from being controlled by what others think about us.
 - d. Restoration frees us to be witnesses for Jesus, even if there is a cost.

Pray: Confess any areas of life where you are denying Christ. Ask for God's restoration through Christ to free you from shame and to serve him in the midst of everyday trials.