

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31

- The actions of Jesus reveal God's **love** for us, even in our **failures**.

Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me...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. Matthew 26:31,35

1 Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. 2 Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. John 21:1-2

3 Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. John 21:3

#### A couple of warnings about our failures:

- When we fail Jesus, we are tempted to go back to our **old life**.

- Our condition tends to **influence** others.

3 Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said.... John 21:3

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. John 21:4-9

#### Good news for failed believers:

- Jesus **finds you** even in your failures.

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.... James 5:16

#### Action Step:

Tell one **mature believer** where you've been drifting.

- God will allow you to fail to show you **what He can do**.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

#### Action Step:

Ask God to show you what He's **exposing** within you, not just what He is **fixing** for you.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24

- Jesus invites us to **receive** what He has prepared for us.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." John 21:12

Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Matthew 6:8

#### Action Step:

Bring your **needs** to Jesus, even though He already knows them.

7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

- Jesus allows us to affirm our **love** and He restores our **purpose**.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. James 21:15-17

Peter needed to **hear himself** articulate that his love was more important than his failure.

#### Action Step(s):

Verbally **reaffirm** your love for Jesus daily.

Step back into God's **purpose** for your life by serving others.

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10



#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

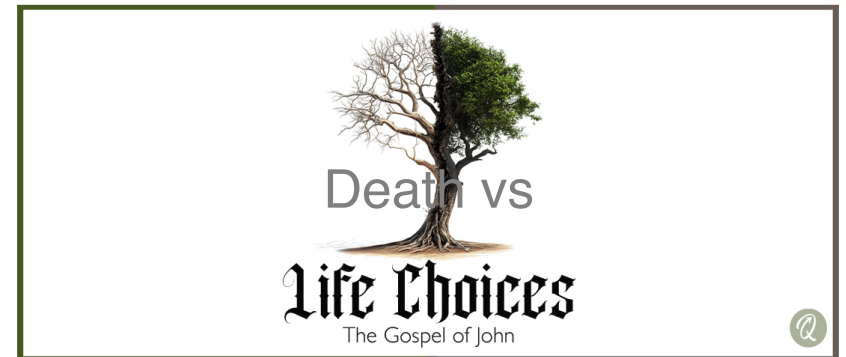
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Peter had boldly declared loyalty to Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 26:31,35, yet later denied Him. Where do you see the gap between Peter's intentions and his actions—do you see that same tension in your own life?
- In Gospel of John 21:3, Peter says, "I'm going fishing," and the others follow. Why do you think failure often pushes us back toward old habits or "comfortable" patterns? What does that look like practically in your life?
- Peter's decision impacted the other disciples. Can you think of a time when someone else's spiritual direction influenced you—for better or worse? How might your current choices be influencing others right now?
- In John 21:4-9, Jesus shows up while the disciples are still in their unproductive, discouraged state. What stands out to you about how Jesus approaches the disciples in this moment? How does this challenge the way you think Jesus responds to your failures?
- How have you seen God use a moment of weakness or failure in your life to reveal something deeper about your need for Him?
- Jesus invites the disciples to, "Come and have breakfast" (John 21:12), and this connects with the Gospel of Matthew 6:8. Why is it sometimes hard to bring our needs to Jesus—even though we know He already knows them? What would it look like for you to trust Him more in this area?
- In John 21:15-17, Jesus restores Peter and gives him purpose again. Why do you think Jesus had Peter verbally affirm his love? How can regularly expressing your love for Jesus, and serving others (1 Peter 4:10), help you move forward instead of staying stuck in past failure?
- Which action step from the Talk do you most need to apply this week—and what is one specific way you will follow through?

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Sunday, April 19th, 2026