



What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus doesn't discard us when we fail - Our worst moments don't define us; His grace does.
2. Jesus meets us in our shame - He deliberately walks into our darkest moments to bring healing, not condemnation.
3. Restoration requires vulnerability - Jesus can't heal what we won't let Him touch.
4. Our identity is in Christ, not our failures - We are defined by His wounds, not ours.
5. God uses broken people - Jesus is the king of using screw-ups and the least qualified to accomplish great things.

Discussion Questions:

1. Peter's personality was extreme - high highs and low lows. How do you relate to Peter's "all in or not at all" approach to life? Where do you see yourself in his story?
2. In John 21, Peter went back to fishing after Jesus' death. What are the "fishing boats" in your life - the familiar places or habits you return to when you're confused or hurting?
3. Why do you think Jesus specifically asked the angel to mention Peter by name ("Go tell the disciples and Peter")? What does this tell us about how God sees us in our failure?
4. Jesus intentionally built a charcoal fire - the same kind of fire where Peter denied Him. Why would Jesus recreate that painful memory? How does this change your understanding of how Jesus deals with our shame?
5. Jesus doesn't heal what you don't let him touch. What wounds or failures have you been hiding from Jesus (or others) that need His healing touch?
6. Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?" three times - once for each denial. How does this surgical approach to restoration speak to you? What might Jesus be asking you three times?
7. After Peter's failure, Jesus gave him the most important job: "Feed my sheep." What does this teach us about how God views our usefulness after we've messed up?

8. Jesus told Peter "mind your business" when Peter asked about John's future. In what ways do you compare your journey to others? How does this comparison steal your focus from following Jesus?
9. You are not your screw-up, you are not your vice, you are not your addiction, you are not your failures. In Christ, you're His. Which of these false identities do you struggle with most? How can this truth set you free?
10. Peter went from denying Jesus by a fire to dying for Jesus on a cross. What do you think made the difference? How can we experience that same transformation?
11. Your love for Jesus is real and it matters, but it's not the thing that holds us all together. It's His love for you. How does shifting focus from our love to His love change the way you approach your relationship with God?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area of shame or failure you've been hiding. Share it with a trusted Christian friend or this small group, and ask them to pray for you specifically about this area.
2. Write down the lies you believe about yourself based on your failures. Next to each lie, write the truth from Scripture about who you are in Christ. Read these truths aloud each morning this week.
3. Notice when you compare yourself to others this week. Each time you catch yourself, pray: "Jesus, help me follow YOU, not them." Journal about what unique calling or personality trait God might be redeeming in you.
4. Build your own "charcoal fire" by identifying a specific failure or moment of shame in your past, and invite Jesus into that memory through prayer. Ask Him to show you how He was present even then and how He wants to redeem it.
5. Scripture for Further Study
 1. Luke 5:1-11 - Peter's first encounter with Jesus and the miraculous catch
 2. Matthew 16:13-23 - Peter's confession and immediate rebuke
 3. Matthew 26:69-75 - Peter's denial
 4. Acts 2:14-41 - Peter's Pentecost sermon
 5. Acts 4:1-20 - Peter's boldness before the religious leaders
 6. Romans 8:1 - "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"
 7. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come"