FAILURE ISN’T FINAL
JOHN 18:15-27 / APRIL 2, 2017 / AM

I. FIRST, THE REASONS FOR PETER’S FAILURE CAME IN THREES.

A. Peter didn’t understand the necessity for the cross—Matt. 16:21-23.

B. Peter didn’t realize how serious spiritual complacency can be—Matt. 26:40-41.

C. Peter’s self-assurance may be the biggest reason he failed.
   1. Peter was sure of himself from the very beginning—John 6:66-68.
   2. Peter was even sure he would die for Jesus—John 13:36-37.
   3. Peter, at first, did demonstrate his willingness to die for Jesus—John 18:10-11.
   4. Peter even followed Jesus when he was first arrested—John 18:15.

II. SECOND, PETER’S FAILURE CAME IN THREES.

A. Three times he denied even knowing who Jesus was—John 18:15-17, 25-27.

B. After Peter’s third denial he came face to face with Jesus—Luke 22:60-62.

III. THIRD, PETER’S RESTORATION CAME IN THREES.

A. Corresponding to Peter’s three denials are Jesus’ three questions—John 21:15-17.

B. Much has been made of the different Greek words for “love” used here.

C. What did Jesus mean by “more than these” in the first question?

D. The purpose of Jesus’ questions to Peter was to cause him to examine himself and to reinstate him.