
SERMON NOTES March 7, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 18:12-27
Failing into Grace
Pastor Mike

I. The danger of spiritual _____

a. Religion and focusing on _____

b. Being unaware of our _____ and _____

II. The _____ and _____ of failure

a. Self-_____ leads to self-_____

Sooner or later, we will all be _____

b. God uses our failure to _____

III. Peter and Judas; Similar _____ but contrasting _____

a. Both _____ in similar ways

b. Judas saw _____ while Peter saw _____

IV. Embracing the _____ power of grace

a. Believe God's grace is _____

b. Love radically as _____

c. Let God _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. John 18 not only tells us that Peter failed when he denied Jesus 3 times, it also teaches us about why he failed, so that we can understand our own weakness that could cause us to fail in similar ways.
 - a. From John's account of Peter's story, what can we learn about why he failed? What contributed to him failing by denying Jesus three times?
 - b. What can you learn from Peter's failure? Do you share any of the same weaknesses that might cause you to fail when things get hard?

2. Both John 13 (where Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial) and John 18 draw a close parallel between Judas and Peter. The Gospel of John implies that Judas and Peter both failed Jesus in similar ways, even though the end of their stories were drastically different.
 - a. How were Peter and Judas similar in the ways that they failed Jesus?
 - b. If they both failed Jesus in similar ways, what was different in their responses after their failure?
 - c. If Jesus Peter's sin was similar in nature to Judas' betrayal, and Jesus not only forgave Peter's sin, but made him the leader of the early church, is there any sin of yours that is too great for God to forgive? Is there any failure in your life that God can't redeem?
 - d. From the standpoint of history, Judas is seen as one of the greatest sinners ever, while Peter is seen as the great leader of the early church. How do you understand this vast difference in the outcomes of their lives?

3. John 18 is very clear in telling us that the Apostle John was there in the courtyard where Jesus' trial was taking place when Peter denied knowing Jesus. It is also clear in telling us that John did not deny Jesus but identified himself as one of Jesus' disciples.
 - a. Why do you think that in writing his Gospel, John was so intentional in making it clear that he was also there where Peter denied Jesus? From what we know about the events that followed the next few days, how do you think John responded to Peter after Peter's betrayal of Jesus?
 - b. Why is this part of the story important? What practical application for our lives can we take from understanding this part of the story?

4. Pastor Mike titled his sermon on this passage "Failing into Grace." Do you think that Peter came out of the experience of his failure in denying Jesus weaker or stronger? If stronger, how could his failure cause him to grow? If God can grow Peter through his failure, can He grow you through your failure? If so, how does God want to grow you?

5. Pastor Mike closed his message with a call to embrace the redemptive power of grace.
 - a. What does it mean to believe that God's grace is greater than your sin? Are there any sins in your past (or present) about which you struggle to believe this is true?
 - b. What does it mean to love radically as a people of God's grace? Who in your life is God calling you to show the same radical grace in their failure that he has shown you?
 - c. What does it mean to let God redeem your story? What part of your story does God want to redeem?