

God's Mercy Can Change Your Life – Part 3
GOD'S MERCY & MY FAILURES

WHAT CAUSES OUR PERSONAL FAILURES?

1. WE OVERESTIMATE OUR STRENGTH

“Jesus said ‘Tonight every one of you will desert me. . . Then Peter boasted, ‘But Lord, even if everyone else fails you, I will NEVER deny you!’ Jesus replied, . . . ‘before the rooster crows at dawn, you will deny knowing me three times.’ Peter said ‘But Lord, I would NEVER do that!’” Matt. 26:31-35

“If you think, ‘I am strong! I can handle this. I’d never fall for that temptation,’ then be careful! For you could easily fall too!” 1 Cor. 10:12

2. WE FEAR THE DISAPPROVAL OF OTHERS

“Peter followed Jesus at a distance. . . As he was sitting in the courtyard, a servant girl said, ‘You were with Jesus of Galilee, weren’t you?’ But Peter denied it. Matt. 26:58, 69-70

“It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you’ll be safe.” Prov. 29:25

3. WE SPEAK WITHOUT THINKING

“The men who had been standing there came over to Peter and said ‘We know that you are one of them because your Galilean accent gives you away.’ Peter lost his temper and started cursing and swearing. He shouted ‘I don’t know the man!’ Immediately he heard a rooster crow.” Matthew 26:71-74

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH OUR FAILURES?

1. HE PRAYS FOR US!

“Jesus is able to save us completely because (in heaven) he lives to intercede on our behalf. He is always talking to the Father, asking him to help us.” Hebrews 7:25

2. HE BELIEVES IN US!

“. . . so WHEN you have repented and turned back to me again...” Luke 22:32

“For even though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again!” Proverbs 24:16

The Angel said, “I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. But he is not here—he’s risen from the dead... Now go tell his disciples, AND tell Peter. . . Mark 16:6-7

3. HE SHOWS US MERCY WHEN WE’RE DOWN

“At dawn the disciples saw a man standing on the shore but they couldn’t see it was Jesus. He called out, ‘Friends, have you caught any fish?’ ‘Not a thing!’ they replied.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get plenty of fish!’ So they did what Jesus said to do, and they instantly caught many fish! Then John said to Peter, ‘IT’S THE LORD!’” John 21:1-14

“When they got to shore they saw that Jesus was cooking fish and bread over a charcoal fire. Jesus said, ‘Now come and have some breakfast!’ Now they were sure it really was the Lord! Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised...” John 21:1-14

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lam. 3:22-23

4. HE USES OUR FAILURES TO BUILD HIS CHURCH!

“When you have turned back to me, strengthen and build up your brothers.” Luke 22:32

“After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you,’ Peter replied. ‘Then FEED my lambs,’ Jesus said. Then Jesus repeated the question: ‘Peter, do you love me?’ Peter said, ‘Yes, Lord! You KNOW I love you!’ ‘Then TAKE CARE of my sheep,’ Jesus said. Then Jesus asked the same question one more time: ‘Peter, do you love me?’ Now Peter was grieved that Jesus asked the question a third time, so he said, ‘Lord, you know everything! You know I love you!’ And Jesus replied ‘Then feed my sheep!’” John 21:15-17

Jesus: “Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it!” Matt. 16:18