



***KNOCKED DOWN BY
FAILURE***

August 14, 2016

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." - Luke 22:31-32 ESV

THE SIFTING OF PETER

- **Pride - Matthew 26:33**
- **Weariness - Matthew 26:40**
- **Impulsiveness - John 18:10-11**
- **Keeping Distance - John 18:16; Matthew 26:58**
- **Evil Associations - John 18:18**
- **Open Denial - John 18:25-27**
- **Cursing Himself - Mark 14:71**

HOW JESUS HELPS US RECOVER FROM A FAILURE

I. HE RESTORES OUR MOTIVATION.

*That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.
- John 21:7-8 ESV*

Acts 13:22

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51:10 ESV

2. HE REWRITES OUR MANUSCRIPT.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."... ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." - John 21:15-19 ESV

FROM MANUSCRIPT TO CHRISTOSCRIPT

- The Nightfall-Fire > **Daybreak-Fire**
- The Self-Assured Boast > **Christ-Dependent Resignation**

Philippians 2:5-7

- The Natural Name > **The Apostolic Name**

John 1:42; Matthew 16:17f

- The Three Denials > **The Three Affirmations**
- The Forsaken Cross > **The Embraced Cross**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. - 1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

3. HE REIGNITES OUR MISSION.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. - John 21:9-13 ESV

I WILL GET BACK UP BY...

- Memorizing **1 Peter 2:9-10**.
- Maintaining my heart-relationship with Jesus.
- Allowing Jesus to rewrite my story.
- Giving my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. Have you ever failed at something you thought you would be good at and then ended up succeeding in the end? What was that like to walk through?
2. When you think of both David and Peter in the area of complete failure, and realize, in the end, that they both had a heart that longed to know God, how does that help you face the knockdown of failure yourself?
3. Review Peter's sifting by Satan in the outline above. How often do you see this pattern at work in people who are falling away from God? Would you add other insights from what you have observed?
4. Review the five "rewrites" Jesus did with Peter to help restore him to his ministry. How has Jesus helped you write your own Christoscript? What points do you personally relate to the most in Peter's life, regarding his rewrite? What would you add regarding your own rewrite?
5. Why is it so very critical to always keep the Cross before our eyes, while we seek to reignite the mission of Jesus in our life?