

Falling Short

hope amidst our failures

a newstory church series

Pt4: Case Study Pt 2

Pastor Tom Kang

Ice Breaker: If Jesus invited you to “come and have breakfast” with Him this week, what do you think He would most want to talk with you about? What do you think that shows about what you believe Jesus is like?

1. Pastor Tom said the question isn't *if* you'll fall short but *what you do after* you fall short. When you think about your own patterns after failure, do you tend to turn inward (isolate, self-punish, retreat) or outward (seek help, confess, move toward God)? Why do you think that is?
2. Read Matthew 27:3-5 and then 2 Corinthians 7:10 together. Judas said the right words — “I have sinned” — and even tried to return the money. On the surface it *looks* like repentance. How do we discern the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow in ourselves, especially when they can feel so similar?
3. The sermon highlighted that the Greek word *anthrakian* (charcoal fire) appears only twice in the New Testament - at Peter's denial (John 18:18) and at Jesus' restoration (John 21:9). What does it say about the character of God that Jesus intentionally recreated the scene of Peter's worst failure? How is that different from how we typically handle painful memories?
4. Read Psalm 32:3-5. David describes what it felt like to keep his failure hidden versus what happened when he finally confessed. How does David's experience mirror the contrast we see between Judas (who turned inward) and Peter (who turned toward Jesus)? What does ongoing hiddenness do to a person?
5. Henri Nouwen wrote, “The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there.” How does Peter's failure and restoration actually *qualify* him to lead the early church rather than disqualify him? What does this mean for how we view broken leaders — and our own brokenness?
6. The sermon outlined a powerful distinction: *Regret says “I feel terrible about what I did.” Repentance says “I’m turning around and walking a different direction.”* Regret can coexist with unchanged behavior for decades. Is there an area in your life where you've been stuck in regret but haven't yet made the turn into repentance - into *metanoia*, a genuine change of direction? What would that U-turn look like practically?
7. Jesus' restoration of Peter didn't begin with an interrogation - it began with a meal: “Come and have breakfast” (John 21:12). Communion echoes this same invitation. As we close this series, what is Jesus inviting you to come and receive from Him right now? What sword do you need to put down - including the one you've been using against yourself? Take a moment to share or simply sit with that question, and then pray for one another.