

## WHEN FAILURE FEELS FINAL

### OakRidge Guest Series

July 6, 2025

Pastor Andrew Cooper

The Garden Church

**Title: When Failure Feels Final**

**Picture 1: Haley's "shocked face".**

**Picture 2: Old Red Biplane.**

**Picture 3: View from the Plane.**

**Peter is one of Jesus' most faithful and least faithful disciples.**

**John 13:36-38 (ESV):** <sup>36</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." <sup>37</sup> Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." <sup>38</sup> Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

#### **1. God uses our willingness, despite our weakness... (John 13:36-38)**

**2 Cor. 12:9 (NIV):** <sup>9</sup> ... "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ... I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**John 18:15-27 (NIV):** <sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, <sup>16</sup> but **Peter had to wait outside at the door.** The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought **Peter in.** <sup>17</sup> "*You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?*" she asked Peter. He replied, "**I am not.**" <sup>18</sup> It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. **Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.** <sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup> "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret." <sup>21</sup> Why question me? Ask those who heard me. "Surely they know what I said." <sup>22</sup> When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. <sup>23</sup> "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. <sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there **warming himself.** So, they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" **He denied it, saying, "I am not."** <sup>26</sup> One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" <sup>27</sup> **Again Peter denied it,** and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

#### **2. God's purposes prevail, even when our failures feel final... (John 18:15-27)**

**Mark 16:1-7 (NIV):** <sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." <sup>7</sup> But go, **tell his disciples and Peter,** 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

**"And Peter".**

**John 21:3-7 (NIV):** <sup>3</sup> “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. <sup>6</sup> He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. <sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

**John 21:15-19 (NIV):** <sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

### **3. God redeems broken things, even the things we broke (John 21:15-19).**

**God redeems and restores the things we break.**

#### **Action:**

Surrender to Christ, as Lord.

Surrender failures, surrender shame, and allow God to do the work of restoring you.