

Sermon Guide



“Facing Your Past” **January 8th, 2023**

“The servant girl at the door said to Peter, ‘You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.”

“They saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.”

John 18, John 21

1) RD said we unwittingly choose one of three responses to our past: 1) we dismiss our past; 2) deflect our past through escaping, coping, or numbing; and finally, 3) we ruminate on our past. Of those three responses, which feels most entrapping to you? Why might that be?

2) “Brokenness and repair [are] part of [a vessel’s] history, not something to be disguised or hidden... And after the repair, you lead out of brokenness, not competence.” In the slide below, you will see the Japanese art of Kintsugi. Think of an area of shame or brokenness in your life. In the honesty of your heart, do you believe God can bring beauty from that part of your life? Why or why not?

3) RD gave us five points on facing our pasts and finding healing. We need to: 1) Learn about our stories; 2) Be curious about our emotions; 3) Find communities of safety, confession, restoration and forgiveness; 4) Encounter Jesus and the hope of the gospel; and 5) Not forget our future hope. Which if these feels most lacking in your life currently? Explain.

Prayer Prompt: Does it feel vulnerable to know you are loved by God in every part of your story? Even your regrets? RD said we need to be “controlled by the love of Jesus”— not our love for Jesus. Pray for one another to receive the love of Jesus in the broken places of life.

We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?

