



CANCELED, PART 4: JESUS' RESPONSE TO THE ONE YOU CANCEL MOST

Cancel culture seems to be on the rise in our society. When we consider the heart of it, we see that some of it has to do with the one doing the canceling. When we look deep inside, often our desire to point out others' faults has to do with ourselves. Our most critical voice is frequently reserved for our inner dialogue. Pointing out others' faults often makes us feel better about ourselves. What does Jesus have to say at the moment when we count ourselves out because of our failure and brokenness?

BIG IDEA: Jesus hasn't canceled you, so don't cancel yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Some people would say that our most critical voice is the one we use internally for ourselves. Is this true for you? How so?
2. What percentage of the average person's inner dialogue would you guess is self-critical? Why do you think this differs for different people?
3. Why do failures often become setbacks in our lives? What types of failures do you think are the hardest to recover from?
4. Why is it easier for us to compare ourselves to others than to face what's inside of us? How does comparison hurt our ability to see ourselves as God sees us?
5. Brokenness in our lives can result from a poor decision we make, or it can just happen to us. Have you ever experienced brokenness that made it difficult to see the other side of the tunnel?
6. Peter is a disciple who was filled with passion and seemed to have a "ready, fire, aim" approach to life. Considering Peter's overall story, in what ways do you connect with him or see yourself in his response? (Peter's denial in Luke 22:54-63 can provide context if needed.)
7. Read John 21:1-12. Because of his failures, Peter perceived himself as canceled or disqualified from the dreams he and Jesus had talked about. Why do you think Peter was so eager to get to Jesus on the beach?
8. Read John 21:15-19. As you read this conversation between Jesus and Peter, you can feel the emotion. Jesus confronts Peter's failure and brokenness with forgiveness and points him to his future. How does Jesus' response to Peter change your apprehension about coming to Jesus with your own brokenness and failures? Why is confronting our failures and brokenness with someone else so difficult?
9. Carlo shared that humility (honesty and listening), repentance, and community are three vital steps to walking through our brokenness and failures. Which of these three do you find hardest to practice?
10. Acts 4:13 shows us what the future was like for Peter and John. While our culture-- and even we ourselves--say that our daily failures and brokenness disqualify us, Jesus' forgiveness frees our future. How does that encourage you in a specific area today?

