

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday April 28, 2019. "Surviving the Worst Thing Ever".**

### **A. Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

### **B. Recap Series.**

On Easter Sunday we had a split message, and the second message introduced the new series; **"Surviving the Worst Thing Ever"**. The basic premise was everyone has been thru an awful event, something that happened to them, or something they may have done themselves. And if that horrible thing that happened was done to us, then often our beliefs and faith take a huge hit also. The things we believed about God, our understanding of who God is, and how he works is often damaged. And we don't know what to do next. This is what those horrible events in our life do. We want NCC to be a place where you can not only come if you've really messed up, had something awful happen to you, but also if you've lost your faith and not even sure you believe in God anymore. We won't force some belief system or faith on you. We know what we believe. In a God who is there for us no matter what, but we don't expect others to have the same type of faith we do. We want to walk with people as they figure out what it would look like to reassemble a working belief in God.

So, let's get a little vulnerable here.

**Has there been a time in your past when something earth shattering happened to you, and in some way your faith was shaken?**

**What happened?**

**What did you struggle with as far as your understanding and relationship with God?**

### **C. Scripture.**

Sunday we returned to Peter, who we talked about on Palm Sunday. This time we hit the other side of his denial of knowing Jesus. This had to have been such a difficult conversation for Peter.

So...read it first, and then we'll unpack it. **John 21:15-19.**

This was the story of Jesus working a process of helping Peter realize what he had done, face the damage it caused, and then what it would take to rebuild and restore the relationship. This is such a painful thing, and anyone who has gone thru this will know how hard it is. But we also know how necessary it is not only to heal the relationship, but to restore the damage done to your own soul.

So...as we always do.

**What jumped out to you about this account?**

**Be creative and think about what Peter was experiencing.**

## **Process of restoration.**

But there is a process, a way to begin to walk a path, do the work, to rebuild a relationship that has been shattered by ***“The Worst Thing Ever”***. And it will require us to reframe some church words.

### **1. Conviction.**

Conviction is NOT- feeling shameful, worthless because you did wrong.

***Conviction- is a formal and acted upon recognition of a wrongdoing.***

It's that natural, God-given, thing inside of you that surfaces the realization you've done something wrong, and tells you something has to be done. It's the first step towards healing.

### **2. Sin.**

Sin is NOT- that thing that forever disqualifies you.

***Sin- is classically defined as “missing the mark”. But a more scriptural understanding is the space between hitting the target and missing it. Or a relational understanding is; “something that destroys communion/fellowship”.***

Sin is giving a name to that thing you did, and the harm, brokenness, it caused someone else.

### **3. Repentance.**

Repentance is NOT- constantly caring around your sin, having to wear the scarlet letter.

***Repentance- is a genuine sense of remorse that moves you to change directions.***

Repentance is the realization and acceptance if you don't do something different you're bound to repeat that sin. Repentance looks for deeper causes of what causes our behavior.

## **D. Challenge.**

We saw in the passage where Jesus was addressing what Peter did, there was this process of Jesus helping Peter recognize the significance of what he did.

When you feel like repenting, beginning the process of understanding what you did AND what probably caused it, also know that's **God moving towards you to restore the relationship and you are worth hanging in there and doing the hard work.**

**Restoration, true repentance and healing, only works if both the guilty party and the hurt party move towards each other.**

### **Repentance is a mirrored act.**

That's how God works and we see Jesus teaching it all thru the gospels. And that's how we have to practice true healing and repentance. God turns toward us when we're wrong. And then creates a path for us to turn back towards him, and begin this process of healing.

**Who do you need to begin to walk towards to restore a broken relationship?**