

Message: *This Changes Everything— God’s Mercy, My Failures*

Scripture: Matthew 26:31-71

WHAT CAUSES OUR PERSONAL FAILURES?

WE OVERESTIMATE OUR STRENGTH

Jesus said “Tonight one of you will desert me”. Then Peter boasted, “But Lord, even if everyone else fails you, I will never deny you.” Matthew 26:31

If you think, “I am strong! I can handle this. I’d never fall for that temptation”, then be careful! For you could easily fall too! 1 Corinthians 10:12

WE FEAR THE DISAPPROVAL OF OTHERS

Peter followed Jesus at a distance to the courtyard... As he was sitting in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said, “You were with Jesus of Galilee, weren’t you?” But standing there in front of everyone Peter denied it. “I don’t even know what you’re talking about.” Matthew 26:58, 69-70

WE SPEAK WITHOUT THINKING

... another woman saw him and said to those standing there, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again Peter denied it, and this time he swore an oath and said “I don’t even know that man!” But after a while, the men who had been standing there came over to Peter and said “We know that you are one of them because your Galilean accent gives you away.” Peter lost his temper and started cursing and swearing. He shouted “I don’t know the man!” Immediately he heard a rooster crow. Matthew 26:71-74

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL?

GRIEVE

When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, “Before the rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.” Then Peter went outside and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:75

The sacrifice God wants is a broken and contrite spirit, God will not reject a humble and repentant heart. Psalm 51:17

LET MY SMALL GROUP SUPPORT ME

Mary Magdalene went and found the disciples together, grieving and weeping. Mark 16:10

That evening the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group, and said “Peace be with you” ... The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. John 20:19-20

CAST MYSELF ON GOD'S MERCY

Because of his great mercy God has given us a new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope... 1 Peter 1:3

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH OUR FAILURES?

HE ISN'T SHOCKED

Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. Luke 22:31

*God certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.
Psalm 103:14*

HE PRAYS FOR US

Jesus is able to save us completely because he lives to intercede on our behalf. He is always talking to the Father, asking him to help us. Hebrews 7:25

HE BELIEVES IN US

...so when you have repented and turned back to me again... Luke 22:32

For even though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again. Proverbs 24:16

The angel said, "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. But he is not here—he's risen from the dead... Now go tell his disciples, and tell Peter, that he's going ahead of you to Galilee and he'll see you there, just as he promised. Mark 16:6-7

HE SHOWS US MERCY WHEN WE'RE DOWN

Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. Seven of the disciples were there and Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." ... Then John said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter realized that he put on his tunic, jumped into the water, and swam ashore... When they got to shore they saw that Jesus was cooking fish and bread over a charcoal fire. John 21

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

HE USES OUR FAILURES TO BUILD HIS CHURCH

When you have turned back to me, strengthen and build up your brothers. Luke 22:32

*After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord, you know I love you," Peter replied. "then feed my sheep."
John 21:15-17*

Jesus: "Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18