

SALT LIFE

PART 3

SALTY AFTER SETBACKS

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”

John 21:3–14 Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. He called out, “**Fellows, have you caught any fish?**” “No,” they replied. Then he said, “**Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!**” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. “**Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,**” Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. “**Now come and have some breakfast!**” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

What to do when I fail

1. Run to God, not from God.

John 21:7 When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.

2. Refuse to let my failures define me.

John 21:15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “**Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?**” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “**Then feed my lambs,**” Jesus told him.

Matthew 16:18 “**Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.**”

3. Recycle the pain from my failures.

John 21:17a A third time he asked him, “**Simon son of John, do you love me?**” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

4. Relax in God’s grace.

John 21:17b ...Jesus said, “**Then feed my sheep.**”