

SPRING BOARD

Ask someone to get a headcount but hold the number till I ask for it.
Hand out one piece of paper to each person.

Word Association-

In 10 seconds I want you to write down the first thing that comes to mind after I say this statement.

Don't think about it.

Write the first thing that comes to mind. There is no right or wrong answer.

“Tell me something about Peter”

- One of the 12 disciples.
- Walked on water
- With Jesus on mountain of transfiguration
- He was of the closest three – Peter, James and John
- Preached the sermon at Pentecost
- He healed the lame man begging for alms at the temple
- He raised the dead girl Tabitha back to life. Acts 9:40
- He healed a paralyzed man bedridden for 8 years. Acts 9
- Vision from God that the gentiles were clean
- Miraculously freed from prison by an angel
- Wrote 2 of the epistles in the NT
- His shadow healed. **Acts 5:15**

Does it surprise you that the majority of this room remembered his “failure” instead of his successes?

Humans have this terrible problem. We tend to enlarge and remember the negatives before the positives.

In fact even as Christians we often enlarge the failures in our lives, allowing them to overshadow the future keeping us from God's best.

I NEED TO LAY SOME GROUND WORK HERE.

CALL IT THE INTRODUCTION IF YOU WANT.

FAILURE & RESTORATION

I'm convinced that failure is the second biggest hindrance for many Christians.

Sin is the first.

But God is a God of RESTORATION!

His greatest mission ever was to restore fallen humanity to Divine relationship.

Luke 4: 16-21

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

- IF ITS BROKEN I CAN MEND IT!
- IF ITS SICK I CAN HEAL IT!
- IF ITS LOCKED UP I CAN LOOSE IT!
- IF ITS BLIND I CAN CAUSE IT TO SEE!
- IF IS OPPRESSED I CAN SET IT FREE!
- VS. 19 "THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD- THIS IS KNOWN AS "THE YEAR OF JUBILEE"
- EVERY 50 YEARS ISRAEL HAD JUBILEE- 3 THINGS HAPPENED
 1. ALL DEBT WAS PAID
 2. EVERY SLAVE WAS FREED
 3. WHAT EVER WAS STOLEN OR TAKEN FROM YOU WAS GIVEN BACK! - IT WAS JUBILEE! CELEBRATION!

You can sum up everything Jesus said in five words...

I HAVE COME TO RESTORE!

BUT MANY OF US ARE NOT LIVING IN RESTORATION! WHY?

PART OF THAT ANSWER IS IN THE END OF WHAT JESUS SAID.

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN “FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING”?

HEARING is the act of perceiving sound!

Perceive means to recognize, discern, envision, or understand: To achieve understanding of; apprehend.

The question is did we actually “hear” and “perceive” what this verse said Jesus came to do?

Or was it just sound? Just noise entering our ears?

Apprehend means: To take into custody; **arrest**: To grasp mentally; To become conscious of, as through the emotions or senses;

Arrest means: to seize, catch and hold!

IN OTHER WORDS IF I HAVE REALLY “HEARD” SOME THING THEN I HAVE NOT ONLY UNDERSTOOD IT BUT I HAVE GRABBED HOLD OF IT. MY HEART AND FAITH HAVE ARRESTED IT OR TAKEN IT INTO CUSTODY! I’VE GRABBED HOLD AND I AM NOT RELEASING IT!

IT BELONGS TO ME NOW AND I’M NOT LETTING IT GO!!!!

“To him who has ears, let him HEAR what the Spirit is saying!”

OVER THIS LESSON I BELIEVE IF WE WILL “HEAR” WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO TEACH US WE CAN FIND RESTORATION IN THE MIDST OF ANY FAILURE.

Failure & Restoration: The one is not found without the other.

Throughout the Word, you will find that “God never revealed a sin sick condition without revealing the remedy!”

He never points out a dilemma without offering the answer.

I’m convinced that God has the remedy for every sin and the restoration for every failure!

- Failure does not have to be the end.
- In fact if we are willing to learn from it, failure can be the very thing that catapults us into the beginning of God’s best for us.

THAT’S TOO GOOD TO NOT READ AGAIN...

“IF WE ARE WILLING TO LEARN FROM FAILURE, IT CAN BE THE VERY THING THAT CATAPULTS US INTO THE BEGINNING OF GOD’S BEST FOR US”.

“UNTIL A MAN [OR WOMAN] HAS TRULY FAILED AT SOMETHING, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY CAN KNOW THE MEANING OF TRUE SUCCESS.”

“Not every failure leads to sin but every sin leads to failure.”

SIN & FAILURE are two companions that often walk hand in hand.

Here’s some reason we don’t move forward after failure:

1. We are still looking to the past sins and we can’t forget what we did.
2. Because we have failed we are afraid to try again because we might repeat the failure.
3. We think we have failed so greatly and fallen so far that we no longer feel we can be used and the Lord has written us off.

IN A ROOM THIS SIZE I’M CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU WHO EVEN NOW FEEL ONE OR ALL OF WHAT I JUST SAID.

EVEN IF I JUST DESCRIBED YOU...DID YOU “HEAR” WHAT JESUS SAID IN LUKE 4?

BECAUSE IF YOU REALLY “HEARD” IT...THEN RESTORATION IS WAITING FOR YOU!

EVERYONE FAILS!

It is a fact of truth that every Christian at one time or another will fail!

At some point we will act in a manner that we never thought we would.

Or we will do something that we always said we would never do.

Fail: To be unsuccessful, To disappoint or prove undependable, to not succeed.

Failure: the state or act of failing, deterioration or decay
The condition or fact of being insufficient or falling short.

Deterioration: a gradual decline, To grow worse, To weaken or disintegrate;
decay:

So then from these definitions we can conclude that failure doesn't just happen.

It is a gradual disintegrating process.

It is a progression of decisions and choices that bring forth an unsuccessful end.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

THE TRUTH IS...

- Righteous people fall!
- Righteous people sin!
- Righteous people do things they wish they had never done!
- Righteous people act in ways they wish they had never acted.
- The bible is made up of real people like you and I!
- People that were not above making mistakes!
- People who failed!

In fact some of the ones who did the most for God made some of the biggest mistakes and had some of the greatest failures!

King David committed adultery and then had the husband murdered and yet God called him “a man after God’s own heart”!

Jacob was a conniver and a deceiver, yet God blessed him to be the father of the nations of Israel. Out of his loins came the 12 tribes of Israel.

THEN THERE IS PETER...

- He was a disciple!
- He walked close with Jesus!
- He had divine revelation from the Father that caused him to make the foundational statement in Matt. 16 “You are the Christ, the son of the Living God”.
- The statement that Jesus said was the foundation of the church and the Gates of Hell could not prevail against it.
- His name Peter [Petra] in the Greek meant Rock.. “A rock signifying something secure and unmovable”
- Yet this same Peter denied the Lord!
- Not once, not twice, but three times.
- And his failure is one that many people, even non-believers know about.

LET ME PROBE YOUR THINKING WITH ANOTHER QUESTION?

How many believe that when we confess our sins, God forgets them?

ANYONE HAVE A VERSE TO BACK IT UP?

Do you think that God remembers Peter failed him?

A.W. TOZER (Speaking on God’s forgetting sin after forgiveness)

“Now, on the basis of grace as taught in the Word of God, when God forgives a man, He trusts him as though he had never sinned. God did not have mental reservations about any of us when we became His children by faith. When God forgives a man, He doesn't think, 'I will have to watch this fellow because he has a bad record.' No, He starts with him again as though he had just been created and as if there had been no past at all!”

So in to answer the question, “Does God remember Peter denied him? NO”

So if God doesn’t remember why record it for everyone else to remember?

I don't believe this incident was recorded so that we could label and know Peter as the denier of Christ.

I believe that God had Peter's account of failure written down and recorded for another purpose.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

SO IN THIS STUDY LET'S LOOK AT THIS WHOLE ACCOUNT.

NOT SO MUCH AT PETER BUT AT PETER'S FAILURE AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM IT.

THERE IS MORE TO LEARN HERE THAN AVOIDING DENIAL.

GOD WANTS US TO LEARN HOW TO AVOID FAILURE.

THE MORE I COMPILED THIS THE MORE GOD SHOWED ME THAT THE PRINCIPALS HERE CAN APPLY TO ALL TYPES OF FAILURES.

BIG AND SMALL

Over these next two lessons, my goal is three- fold.

- 1. Show us the warnings that can keep us from failing**
- 2. If we are headed towards failure how to turn-around**
- 3. If we have failed, let the restoration begin now!**

THE STEPS TO FAILURE AND THE STEPS TO RESTORATION!

Here's what we have established about failure so far?

FAILURE is a process.

It is a deterioration or decaying from the present condition.

No one is exempt from Failure!

I believe that there are steps leading to this failure that we can learn from. Instructions and lessons that can keep us from failing.

BOOK OF MARK CHAPTER 14

MARK 14:27-31

27 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

**‘ I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep will be scattered.’**

28 “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

29 Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.”

30 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

31 But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.

FAILURES FIRST STEP - PRIDE

Proverbs 11:2

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Haughty: disdainfully proud;[to consider someone beneath you] snobbish; scornfully arrogant;

Scornfully and condescendingly proud. Having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy;

- Peter believes himself to be above this weakness and failure.
- He doesn't only exalt himself but he puts down the others.
- **“Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”**
- **“They may be weak and run but not me. I'll never be made to stumble.”**

MAYBE HE THOUGHT HE WAS ABOVE THIS BECAUSE AFTER ALL- NO ONE ELSE HAD THE REVELATION JESUS WAS THE CHRIST.

I'M PETER THE ROCK. I'M UNSHAKABLE.

THAT SURELY PUTS ME ABOVE THE OTHERS?

PRIDE! THE FIRST STEP DOWNWARD!

NOW FOLLOW THE PROGRESSION TO THE GARDEN.

FAILURES SECOND STEP – LACK OF PRAYER

VS. 32

Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.

37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- **NOTE THEY ARE ALL SLEEPING BUT JESUS SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO PETER AND NOT THE OTHERS.**
- **IT'S AS IF HE IS REMINDING HIM OF THE AWAITING SNARE AND REVEALING THE REMEDY TO AVOID IT.**
- **REMEMBER- NEVER THE WARNING WITHOUT A REMEDY!**

39 Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. 40 And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

- **HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING IF YOU HADN'T NOTICED BEFORE:**
- **3 TIMES PETER WAS FOUND ASLEEP AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME.**

41 Then He came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

ONCE YOUR PRIDE TELLS YOU YOU ARE ABOVE FAILURE STEP TWO FOLLOWS RIGHT BEHIND

- **YOU BECOME LAZY IN PRAYER**
- **YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH GOD LESSONS.**
- **BECAUSE AFTER ALL- YOU AREN'T WEAK IN NEED OF HELP.**

IT'S NO WONDER THAT PETER LATER PENS THESE VERY WORDS...

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober [serious], be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Vigilant means: keenly watchful to detect danger; *To be* wide awake and alert; sleeplessly watchful.

A.W. TOZER WROTE THIS ON PRAYER

“Perhaps worst of all is the fact that our failure to pray leave the enemy in possession of the field. The worst part about the failure of a military drive is not the loss of men or the loss of face but the fact that the enemy is left in possession of the field. In the spiritual sense, this is both a tragedy and a disaster. The devil ought to be on the run, always fighting a rear guard action. Instead, this blasphemous enemy smugly and scornfully holds his position, and the people of God let him have it.”

FAILURES THIRD STEP - DISTANCE

Luke 22:54 ¶Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

[MARK reads this way... "But Peter followed at a distance".

- **Pride has said we will never...**
- **Prayer has become sleepy and fails to keep us alert.**
- **Next comes a drawing away from Jesus.**
- **Those actions create distance between us and the Lord.**
- **We no longer follow as close as we once did.**
- **Sometimes its deliberate but at times it can be subtle.**
- **A slow progression away from where we once were.**
- **A deterioration that gets worse over time.**
- **Peter continues toward the failure he said he would never do.**

BUT YOU CAN'T FOLLOW AT A DISTANCE WITHOUT SOME COMPROMISE.

ONCE YOU HAVE WALKED NEXT TO JESUS YOU CAN'T BE COMFORTABLE AT A DISTANCE.

YOUR SPIRIT KNOWS THAT SOMETHING IS MISSING.

YOU CAN'T BE SATISFIED LIKE YOU WERE AND SO YOU MUST FIND A WAY TO FILL THE VOID.

FAILURES FORTH STEP - REPLACEMENT

55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

- **Peter need to fill the void.**
- **Peter mingled with those not of Jesus in a hopes to fit in.**
- **He was now alone and that loneliness needed to be filled.**

ONCE YOU HAVE TASTED OF THE LORD AND THAT RELATIONSHIP IS DISTANCED IF YOU DON'T DRAW NEAR TO JESUS AGAIN YOU'LL HAVE TO GO LOOKING TO FIND IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

BECAUSE THE NEED IN YOU WILL HAVE TO BE FILLED.

- **The warmth of God's presence no longer existed for Peter.**
- **So he seeks to find warmth from their fire.**
- **He's looking for comfort that he used to have in Jesus presence.**
- **He seeks to blend in and be one of them.**

HOW MANY KNOW THAT ONCE YOU'VE BEEN WITH JESUS YOU NO LONGER "FIT IN" AMONG THEM?

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

- **You see even the world knows when you really don't belong to them anymore.**
- **They will recognize that you are different.**
- **But you can't admit that or the void will come back.**

57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

THE FIRST INFRACTION

SOMETHING IN HIM MUST HAVE CRINGED AT THAT POINT.

AN UNSETTLING FOR A MOMENT

YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU JUST DID WAS WRONG.

FAILURE'S FIFTH STEP – FLEEING CONVICTION

58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

REMEMBER WHEN HE FIRST WENT AMONG THEM AND SAT BY THE FIRE HE WAS IN THE HALL.

IN MARK'S ACCOUNT...Mark 14:68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

NOW HE GOES OUT ON THE PORCH.

- **When you realize you don't fit in one place you'll have to find another.**
- **When who you really are is being exposed you'll need to move.**
- **You'll have to go deeper among them and farther from Jesus.**

YOU ALSO HAVE TO GET HARDER.

NOTICE HIS TONE OF VOICE?

IT IS GROWING WITH ANGER.

YOU'VE GOT TO WORK HARDER AT THIS THING NOW.

Luke 22: 59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

Marks version says " your speech give you away"

YOU CAN TRY ALL YOU WANT, BUT YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE TRUTH...YOU KNOW LONGER FIT.

WHEN YOU GET SAVED YOUR SPEECH GETS SAVED TOO.

YOUR TALK IS FROM ANOTHER REGION.

A GODLY REGION. A NEW LANGUAGE.

WHICH EXPLAINS PETER'S NEXT ACTION...

FAILURES SIXTH STEP - CONFORMITY

HIS ANGER HAD REACHED HIS POINT AND HE BEGAN TO ACT JUST LIKE THEM.

71 Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAD COME!

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me three times.

62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

- **There is something that breaks in you the moment you realize that you have just failed.**

HAVE YOU EVER WEPT BITTERLY OVER SOMETHING YOU DID?

Bitter means: Having or being a taste that is harsh. Causing a sharply unpleasant, painful, or stinging sensation like acid;

ONCE YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE FAILED IT LITERALLY LEAVES A SICK FEELING IN YOUR STOMACH!

YOU CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT YOU JUST DID!

WHAT DO YOU THINK PETER IS FEELING?

A WHOLE WORLD OF EMOTIONS COMES COLLIDING IN YOU ALL AT ONCE.

- SHAME – GUILT – UNWORTHINESS – CONDEMNATION
- YOU JUST FOUND OUT THAT YOU ARE NOT EXEMPT!
- YOU ARE NOT PERFECT!
- YOU ARE CAPABLE OF FAILING!
- WHAT YOU DO AT THIS POINT IS CRITICAL!

WE FIND PETER AT THE LOWEST POINT IN HIS LIFE!

CAN IT REALLY GET ANY WORSE THAN THIS?

OVER THE NEXT FEW CHAPTERS WE FIND JESUS IS FALSELY TRIED, CONVICTED AND CRUCIFIED AND BURIED IN A TOMB.

NOW HE'S DEAD AND PETER IS LEFT WITH THE GUILT AND SHAME OF DENYING HIM.

FROM PETER'S STAND POINT AND THROUGH THE EYES OF HUMANS IT WOULD SEEM THAT PETER'S FUTURE SERVING THE LORD IS OVER.

REMEMBER I SAID GOD CAME TO RESTORE?

3 DAYS LATER JESUS RISES AGAIN AND MARK DECLARES THAT WHEN THE WOMEN GOT TO THE TOMB THEY WERE TOLD GO TELL THE DISCIPLES AND PETER THAT HE IS RISEN.

EVEN THEN JESUS WAS AWARE OF WHERE PETER WAS AND HOW LOW HE MUST HAVE FELT. HE WANTS HIM TO PERSONALLY KNOW...

“HEY PETER. I'M ALIVE! IT'S GONNA BE ALRIGHT!”

REMEMBER- THIS FAILURE DID NOT TAKE JESUS BY SURPRISE.

IN FACT HE HAD TOLD PETER “SATAN DESIRES TO SIFT YOU AS WHEAT BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU...”

WHEN WE BEGIN THE FALL TOWARDS FAILURE EVEN THEN JESUS IS PRAYING FOR US.

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Psalm 139:7-10 David wrote:

If I go to the highest point you are there- if I go to the deepest pit you are there- if I flee to the farthest side of the sea you are there and your right hand holds me up and leads me home.

Corry Ten Boom who's family was arrested in Holland for hiding Jews was sent to a Nazi concentration camp in Ravensbruck. All her family but her died in the camps. After her release she quoted her sister Betsy who died there and wrote:

“NO PIT IS SO DEEP THAT HE IS NOT DEEPER STILL”

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW FAR YOU FALL.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW DEEP YOUR PIT IS.

THERE IS NO WHERE THAT YOU CAN GO THAT GOD CAN NOT REACH YOU.

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

PETER MAKES A DECISION IN HIS DESPAIR

John 21:2-3 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

PETER GOES BACK TO FISHING

THE VERY THING HE USED TO DO BEFORE HE MET JESUS.

DESPAIR CAN CAUSE YOU TO MAKE CHOICES THAT AREN'T ALWAYS BEST FOR US.

SEEING NO OTHER WAY OUT SOMETIMES MAKES US DO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT.

FAILURE CAN DO THAT TO YOU.

YOU CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE ANYMORE

YOU'LL LOSE SIGHT AND VISION

YOU'LL GO BACK TO WHAT IS FAMILIAR

SO PETER GOES BACK... AND THE OTHERS FOLLOW SUIT.

THEY SAID "WE'RE GOING WITH YOU!"

HEY WAIT UP..WE DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER EITHER SO WE'RE WITH YOU.

LEADERS BE CAREFUL HOW YOU RESPOND TO FAILURE.

AS A LEADER SOMEONE IS ALWAYS LEARNING FROM YOU.

SOMEONE IS ALWAYS WATCHING TO SEE HOW YOU RESPOND TO THINGS.

SO THEY GO BACK TO FISHING...ALL OF THEM.

BUT HOW MANY KNOW YOU CAN'T GO BACK!

LOOK WHAT HAPPENS HERE:

They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught NOTHING.

Peter not only failed the Lord but now he's a failure at the one thing he at least used to be good at...fishing!

Once you have walked with Jesus, you can't just go back and just pick up where you left off.

What you left behind to follow Jesus won't be the same anymore when you go back.

It won't be as fulfilling or successful.

Once you have had a taste of Jesus, the old life will never again be enough to replace what you found in Him.

RESTORATION IS ON THE WAY!

HOPE IS COMING!

THE STORY IS FAR FROM OVER!

IN FACT WHILE THEY WERE FAILING AT FISHING -HOPE WAS ALREADY WALKING DOWN THE BEACH WITH AN ANSWER!

IN THE NIGHT TIME WHILE THEY WERE STRUGGLING IN THEIR FAILURE.

JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY TO BRING THE MORNING!

Rev. 22:16

"I Am The Bright And The Morning Star"

WHEN YOU STRUGGLE THROUGH THE NIGHT GOD PROMISES A MORNING!

Psalm 30:5

...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

AND PETER'S MORNING WAS ON THE WAY!

PETER'S TURNING POINT!

GOD NOT ONLY HAS A PLAN OF RESTORATION WHEN WE FAIL!

BUT HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT ON TIME.

WHEN WE ARE AT OUR LOWEST POINT- JESUS WILL SHOW UP!

Restore: to put back to a former place, or to a former position, To bring back into existence or use; reestablish,

Restoration: the act of restoring; renewal, revival, or reestablishment, a putting back into a former position, dignity, etc.

Restoration is the process of building up, repairing or mending in order to make usable again.

AND NOTICE CLOSELY HOW JESUS DOES THIS!

IT'S SO UNLIKE HOW WE HUMANS WOULD HAVE HANDLED IT.

RESTORATION'S FIRST STEP: EVALUATION OF THE NEED

JOHN 21:4-5

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

HE'S ASKING IF THEY ARE BEING SUCESSFUL?

WITHOUT **CONDEMNATION** HE'S CAUSING THEM TO THINK ABOUT WHERE THEY ARE AT RIGHT NOW.

WHEN YOUR TRYING TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS THE ANSWER, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD IN YOUR SPIRIT THAT WHISPERING VOICE OF GOD SAY TO YOU...

“IS THIS WORKING FOR YOU?”

“DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?”

AND WHEN WE ARE HONEST AND EVALUATE THE SITUATION, WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE JUST AS THEY DID...**NO!**

Luke 15: 17And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

THERE COMES A MOMENT OF TRUTH WHEN WE REALIZE WE NEED TO COME HOME.

BUT REALIZING THE NEED TO COME AND ACTUALLY COMING HOME ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

IN OUR FAILURE WE OFTEN KNOW WE NEED TO TURN BACK.

BUT SOMETIMES GUILT AND FEAR AND SHAME WILL KEEP US FROM COMING HOME.

NOTICE JESUS HERE.

HE DOESN' SAY "I TOLD YOU SO" OR SAY ANYTHING TO BELITTLE THEM OR SHAME THEM.

RESTORATION'S SECOND STEP : REVELATION OF THE ANSWER

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

SOMETHING IN PETER HAD CHANGED DURING THIS NIGHT OF STRUGGLE.

PETER HAD AN AWAKENED DESIRE FOR JESUS.

HE'S HAD A LONGING THAT DIDN'T GET FILLED GOING BACK TO FISHING.AND HE REALIZED IT WAS NO LONGER THE SAME.

INSIDE HE HAD A HOMESICK FEELING BUT HE PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS TOO LATE.

EVERY TIME THEY BROUGHT UP AN EMPTY NET THAT NIGHT IT REMINDED HIM OF THE EMPTY HOLE IN HIS SPIRIT.

HE PROBABLY SIGHED TO HIMSELF... "I WISH I COULD GO BACK AND REDO IT...IF I COULD SEE JESUS ONE MORE TIME"

AND HERE COMES THE ANSWER TO HIS SILENT CRY!

JESUS COMES REVEALING HIMSELF TO A WEARY, HURTING GROUP OF MEN.

YOU KNOW WHY I BELIEVE PETER WAS HOMESICK?

HE'S SO ANXIOUS TO GET TO SHORE HE JUMPS OVERBOARD.

HE CAN'T EVEN WAIT FOR THE BOAT TO GET THERE.

RESTORATION'S THIRD STEP: COMPASSION AND ACCEPTANCE:

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, **Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.**

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

BRING THE FISH HERE. IN OTHER WORDS ...

“I ACCEPT YOU. YOU CAN COME CLOSE”

IMMEDIATELY JESUS ENGAGES THEM IN CONVERSATION!

IF THEY HAD ANY DOUBT OR FEARS OF REJECTION BY JESUS - HE PUTS THEM IMMEDIATELY AT EASE .

REMEMBER PETER WASN'T THE ONLY ON THAT BEACH THAT REJECTED HIM.

THEY ALL FLED EXCEPT JOHN.

THEY ALL HAD REASON TO FEEL ASHAMED.

JESUS BREAKS THE ICE SO TO SPEAK BY TALKING TO THEM FIRST.

WHEN SOMEONE HAS FAILED MISERABLY THEY WILL NOT SEEK YOU OUT.

YOU MAY NEED TO GO FIND THEM.

Luke 15:4

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

AND WHEN YOU FIND THEM, I DOUBT THEY WILL BE QUICK TO TALK FIRST.

THEY ARE NATURALLY GOING TO FEAR YOUR REBUKE.

OFTEN TIMES WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT THEM AT EASE BY SHOWING COMPASSION AND ACCEPTANCE.

RESTORATION'S FOURTH STEP: COMFORT AND COMMUNION

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

HE KNEW THEY WERE HUNGRY AND TIRED. HE MET THEIR IMMEDIATE NEED.

GOD DID THE SAME THING WHEN ELIJAH FLED TO THE CAVE.

HE MINISTERED TO HIS BROKEN HUMANESS- HIS HUNGER AND DISCOURAGEMENT.

HE SENT THE RAVENS FIRST TO FEED HIM, THEN HE SAID "WHY ARE YOU HERE ELIJAH?"

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

AGAIN HE'S SERVING THEM.

AGAIN HE'S INVITING THEM TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

RESTORATION'S FIFTH STEP: GENTLE AFFIRMATION

15 ¶So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas,

STOP THERE A MOMENT AND IMAGINE YOU ARE PETER RIGHT NOW.

THE MOMENT YOU FEARED MOST IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

JESUS WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!

IN AN INSTANT THAT WHOLE SCENE FROM THE LAST SUPPER -
TO THE GARDEN - TO THE COURTYARD IS FLOODING YOUR MIND.

YOU RECALL THE WARNING.

YOU RECALL THE WORDS YOU SPOKE...EVERYONE OF THEM.

YOU HEAR THE ROOSTER AGAIN.

YOU REMEMBER HIS EYES WHEN JESUS LOOKED AT YOU.

YOU CAN'T EVEN LOOK HIM IN THE EYE RIGHT NOW.

YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WEPT ALL NIGHT LONG.

THIS IS IT.

THE CONFRONTATION YOU HAVE FEARED MOST AND THE REBUKE
YOU KNOW YOU DESERVE.

YOU BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE WORST AND INSTEAD YOU HEAR A
SOFT SPOKEN QUESTION THAT TAKES YOU TOTALLY BY SURPRISE.

VS. 15 "SIMON DO YOU LOVE ME?" A GENTLE PROBING QUESTION.

Matthew 12:20

***A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till
he leads justice to victory.***

GOD NEVER DESIRES TO BRING INJURY TO AN ALREADY INJURED
PERSON.

[NEW KING JAMES]

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

HE WAS SAYING “PETER- DO YOU LOVE ME?” THEN IT’S NOT OVER. THERE IS STILL A PLAN FOR YOU.

Jer. 29: 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

“PETER, DO YOU LOVE ME? THEN SERVE ME BY SERVING MY SHEEP

TEND MEANS: to look after; watch over and care for; minister to or wait on with service

WITH THE THIRD QUESTION COMES...

RESTORATION’S SIXTH STEP: CONFIRMATION OF RESTORATION

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

HE WAS SAYING “DO YOU LOVE ME PETER?” THEN DON’T LET THE PAST EVER CONDEMN YOU. IT’S BEEN FORGIVEN. IT’S UNDER THE BLOOD!

3 DENIALS AND 3 AFFIRMATIONS OF HIS LOVE.

GOD DIDN'T NEED TO HEAR PETER SAY THIS.

HE ALREADY KNEW HE LOVED HIM.

PETER NEEDED TO HEAR PETER CONFESS HIS LOVE FOR JESUS.

PETER'S HEART NEEDED TO MAKE THE CONFIRMATION OF HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD.

IT'S INTERESTING THAT LATER PETER PENS THESE WORDS...

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

PETER KNEW THAT GOD'S LOVE WAS GREATER THAN ANY FAILURE THAT WE COULD EVER COMMIT.

Paul wrote to the Believers in Ephesians 3:17-19 (New King James Version) 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

How wide and how long is that?

With his hands spread out as far as they could reach...

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

How high and how deep is that? –

From the throne of heaven he laid aside his royal robe and brought love to the lowest earth, even to the pit to prove his love encompasses all.

Psalm 139:7-10 David wrote: If I go to the highest point you are there- if I go to the deepest pit you are there- if I flee to the farthest side of the sea you are there and your right hand holds me up and leads me home.

LET ME BRING THIS WHOLE TEACHING FULL CIRCLE TO CLOSE.

**WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PETER'S FAILURE AND JESUS
EXAMPLE OF RESTORATION?**

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

TO BE MEEK IS TO BE GENTLE, KIND AND HUMBLE.

THE OPPOSITE OF HUMBLE IS PRIDE.

WHICH WILL BRING YOU RIGHT TO BACK TO

**FAILURE'S FIRST STEP: THINKING THAT YOU WON'T FALL LIKE
THEY DID.**

NOT ONCE DID JESUS REMIND PETER OF WHAT HE DID.

HE FORGIVES

HE FORGETS

AND HE RESTORES WITH GENTLENESS AND LOVE.

***Oh the multitude of sins in me
You bore them all on Calvary
Your blood that flowed so free that day
Has washed the multitude away!***

***The shame the guilt that longed to stay
Beneath the cross now rolled away
My sins, my failures you no longer see
Your redeeming blood has set me free!!!***