

Turning Failure into Faith

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1,2 Larry: Xmas Eve Service's. Office Hours. Xmas Giving.
- B. Slide3 Peru Missions Trip: Tony & Team. Encourage/partner w/Albert Smith & his work. VBS in Iquitos & some kids from the Amazon Villages. Visit an orphanage.

II. Slide4 Intro: Turning Failure into Faith

- A. Remember the scene in Lion King where **Simba** (young lion) accidentally starts a stampede. His father **Mufasa** has to save him, and does, **but then** barely makes it at of the gorge, only to have his brother **Scar** plunge him to his death (Simba didn't see it was Scar). **Then** Scar tells Simba, *look what you've done?* The king is dead, if not for you he'd still be alive.
 1. Remember **Simba's** response? There were larger forces at play of the death of his father, **yet** it was undeniable it was *his willful act of defiance* against his dad that attributed to that **chaos**.
 2. Then Scar told him **RUN**. He ran. **And** for a long time he lived a different life. **Was it the worst life ever, a life of crime? No.** He made a few buddies like *Timon and Pumba*, **but he was miles from where he was supposed to be, and from who he was supposed to be.** **And** in running, he abandon a world that desperate needed Him to engage. [this morning Peter is our Simba]
- B. What does God think of **you** when **you** fail? Did you ever picture **Jesus** taking you out to **iHop**, **then** gently talking you through a *warm & personal restoration*?
 1. Well, that's what He's doing with Peter here. *Hey Peter, life is not dictated by your failures but by your faith.* But we all struggle with...**not that our record** hasn't been **expunged**, **but** it's all the memories, imaginations, old failings, old sores, old wounds, that **like a computer w/a virus**, we need to have it dealt with so we can **operate to maximum efficiency** once more.
- C. Slide5 So our Big Idea this morning is: How do I turn **failure** into **faith**? I turn **failure** into **faith** by: **loving Jesus**, **glorifying God**, **staying in my lane**, **and** by **following him in**

my personal obedience. [leave slide up while u read]

III. Slide6a **LOVING JESUS (15-17)** *I turn failure into faith by Loving Jesus*

- A. Jesus goes to where the pain is. He seems to have taken Peter aside for this discussion. (vs.20 other disciple behind them) *Do you love me?*
- B. What He **says** is remarkable, **but** what He **doesn't say**, even more so.
1. He **doesn't** say: **Some friend you turned out to be. I'm real disappointed in you. You let Me down. You're all talk Pete. Coward! Boy, was I ever wrong about you. You call yourself a disciple?**¹
 2. He **simply** asks: *Do you love me?*
 - a) The 3 x's **not to rub it in**, **but** once for **each denial**.
 - b) To give Peter an opportunity to openly confess his love.
 - c) Jesus is not there to **inflict pain**. He is there to **relieve it**.
 - (1) He **had seen** Peter's bitter tears of repentance.
 3. **News Flash:** Jesus doesn't sit in heaven sharpening His **red pencil** to jot down every time we fall on our face.
 - a) **Slide6b Peter** tells us years later, **Love covers a multitude of sin.** 1 Pet.4:8
 - (1) **Where did he learn that?** Right here on the Galilee's beach, where Jesus picked him up & dusted him off (or ringed him out/he was wet).
 - (2) **Though Peter failed, Jesus recommissioned** him. Peter received a fresh challenge. A new commission.
 - b) **You've been there too, haven't you?** You've **failed** Him. **You've fallen & eaten some sand.**
- C. **Slide6c** The most important thing in ministry is **loving Christ**, for all ministry flows from that
1. **This is the secret of all Christian ministry**, **that** somewhere deep down inside, there's **a love for Jesus**. **Yes** we've let Him down at times, **but** He wants to find that love, **and** give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurt and failures of the past, **and** give you new work to do. *NT Wright*
- D. Peter both a **Fisherman** & also a **Shepherd**, who would *care for* the lambs & sheep.

¹ Ken Gire: Intimate Moments with the Savior. pg.140.

1. The image, changes from that of the **fisherman** to that of the **shepherd**. Peter was to minister both as an evangelist (catching the fish) and a pastor (shepherding the flock).
 - a) Later Peter writes to the elders in 1 Pet.5:2-4 *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*
- E. Slide6d Feed my sheep - Jesus' way of saying, *you're still the man for the job*.
 1. Note: Where I got our name for our Radio program 1989.
- F. More than these? - More than *the disciples*. No, his love for Jesus over the other disciples wasn't an issue. More than the *boats, nets, fish*. No, probably wasn't the issue either. More than these *other disciples love Me*? This seem to be the issue.
- G. Peter had boasted of his love for Christ and had even contrasted it with that of the other men. Even if **all** are made to stumble because of You, **I will never** be made to stumble. (Mt. 26:33)
 1. There is more than a hint in these boastful statements that Peter believed that he loved the Lord **more** than did the other disciples. [*as if to say, I can see James/John falling away. Thomas for sure. But not me!* I'm spiritually stronger & more devoted to you than they are. I can see their commitment won't hold up, but mine will]
 2. Beware of: spiritual self-confidence, self-rt, believing you're more spiritually stronger, more devoted. Or because you've been on a missions trip now, because you go door to door to evangelize, because you don't have cable, because you drive a *humble mobile*, Beware.
- H. Lambs & Sheep - Both the **lambs** and the **more mature sheep**, need feeding and leading.
- I. Grieved - not because of agape/phileo, but because Jesus asked him a 3rd time.
- J. Slide6e So what do Pastors need? Pastors need to Love Jesus.
 1. That's the most important thing a pastor can do...Love Jesus Christ.

- K. What do **Marriages** need? Husbands to **Love Jesus**. What do **Families** need? Dads/moms that **Love Jesus**. What do **Husbands** need? Wives to **Love Jesus**. What do **single parent children** need? Their parent to **Love Jesus**.
- L. **Lord, You know all things** - i.e. He knew Peter's heart (& knows ours).
- M. I turn **failure** into **faith** by *loving Jesus*. **But really**, it's not a **failure** but an **education**.

IV. Slide7a **GLORIFYING GOD (18,19)** *I turn failure into faith by Glorifying God*

- A. (18) **The prediction of a martyrs death by crucifixion.**
 1. Peter preached for 37 years & was 70 years old when he died.
 2. **Eusebius** (of Caesarea 260-341) in his *Ecclesiastical History* tells us that Peter was crucified in Rome, by Nero, **but** that he asked to be crucified **upside down**, as he was not worthy to die exactly as his Master (ad 61). **Oh**, after watching his **wife** get crucified.
 3. **What kind of friend inspires devotion like that?**
 - a) **A friend** who **prayed for** him when he was weak. **A friend** who **forgave** him when he failed. **A friend** who **healed** a painful memory. **A friend** who **believed** in him. **A friend** like **Jesus**. **A friend** who **1st laid down his life** for him. *Ken Gire*
 - b) **Slide7b** **But** Peter's death would not be a **tragedy**; it would **glorify God**.
 - c) **Just as did yesterday**: 11 christians were crucified & beheaded afterwards, by ISIS in Syria, near Aleppo. **11 a day/every day [77 since we met last Sun]**
- B. **Slide7c** (19) **Follow Me** (keep on following Me) Jesus reinstates Peter as an apostle. **His restoration complete. His wobbly love, reset.**
 1. He **denied** Jesus **3 times**, **now** he gets to **confess** his **love** for Jesus **3 times**.
 2. **Slide7da** **Do you** need to be **reinstated** this morning? **Do you** need to be **re-commissioned**?
 3. Within **7 weeks** Peter would preach the boldest sermon of his life. **Right in Jerusalem**. 3000 would be saved. **They would form the very nucleus of the church he would establish there.**
 4. **Important**: Jesus restores Peter back to **discipleship** (**follow Me**), **not** to **sonship**

C. I turn **failure** into **faith** by *Glorifying God*.

V. Slide8a **STAYING IN MY LANE (20-22)** *I turn failure into faith by staying in my lane*

A. **Staying in your lane.** 1st used in football (worry about your own assignment). **So** whether it's a **car** on the road. **Or** a **swimmer** in a pool. **Or** a **christian** to his/her calling...*stay in your lane!*

B. Slide8b (20,21) **What about this man?** - Peter takes his eyes off **Jesus** & focuses on **John**.

1. *Sounds like we already did this lesson? But, we can do it again.*
2. Remember Peter walking on water until...when he **saw** that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, Lord, save me! And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? Mt.14:30,31
3. Slide8c It's dangerous to look at **others**, or look at **circumstances**, rather than look at **Christ**. [**Following Him**, is much easier when your eyes are **focused on Him**]

C. It is very clear from this that Jesus has a plan for not only our **lives** (what He wants us to accomplish) **but** also in our **deaths**.

1. **Peter plan** (representing trials & suffering) or **John's objective** (natural causes)?
2. His arrangements for **us** are **carefully chosen** in regards to the service we are to render...ultimately, to bring Him **Glory**. [if John died early, no *Jn, Jn.1,2,3, Rev*]

D. Comparing brings Confusion.

1. Apparently, Jesus' saying caused confusion. John emphasizes that Jesus' statement was **not a prediction**, **but** rather a **hypothetical scenario** intended to instruct Peter.
2. Slide8d God doesn't deal with us on a **comparative** basis, **but** on an **individual** one.
3. *He redeems us individually. He rebukes us individually. He rewards us individually.*

E. Slide8e (22) **What is that to you?** - as kids we'd say, *It's none of your bee's-wax.*

F. I turn **failure** into **faith** by *staying in my lane*.

VI. Slide9a **FOLLOWING HIM (22,23)** *I turn failure into faith by following Him in my personal obedience*

- A. (22) You follow Me - That's the challenge Jesus put to Peter. Not to follow John. Not to follow the rest of the disciples. Not to follow the majority, but ME.
1. Ps: Peter followed Him...right into the excitement of the book of Acts.
 2. Good news: Jesus wasn't looking for a **perfect preacher** on Pentecost, but instead one who **failed so badly**. Because **failure** is not the end, nope. Slide9b "**Failure is the hinge the door swings on, to open wide the Grace of God.**"
 3. Slide9c And: guess what **book** we're going into next? *The Book of Acts*. We'll keep following Peters story.
- B. I turn **failure** into **faith** by *following Him in my personal obedience*.

VII. Slide10 **WRAP UP (24,25)** *many other things*

- A. Some **60 years** have passed since Jesus died, when **John** penned this letter.
- B. According to John's own testimony: The account is **selective**, not *exhaustive*; The events are **actual**, not *theoretical*; The purpose is **specific**, not *vague*. Swindoll
1. The whole universe is a **living library** that *only begins to tell of our Glorious Creator, God the Son*.
- C. How do I turn **failure** into **faith**? I turn **failure** into **faith** by: **loving Jesus**, **glorifying God**, **staying in my lane**, and by **following him** *in my personal obedience*.
- D. Jesus is waiting to tell us the rest of the story when we get there. *Are you going?*
- E. Jesus asks you this morning: Do you **love** Me? Will you **follow** Me? Will you stay **focused** on your calling? Will you **care** for My lambs/sheep? Will you now own *your individual focused calling* both in your **life** and in your **death**?