

Sermon Questions for Life Groups, Individuals, and Accountability Groups

October 18, 2020

Responding with Repentance

John 21:1–19

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CONNECT:

- Share a (lighthearted) time when the Proverb “pride goes before a fall” proved true in your life.

GROW:

- After a difficult season of bad decisions and personal failures, Peter (and a few other disciples) returned to fishing. They ran back to something that was both comfortable and familiar to feel better.
 - Why do you think we are often tempted to run away from our problems and failures?
 - What are some unhelpful things that people often “run to” when life feels out of control?
 - Why are those things ultimately unable to heal a burdened heart?
- What are some biblical ways to respond to fear, shame, and failure? How do you battle the temptation to “run away” from Jesus after stumbling spiritually?
- In the sermon, we looked at three lies that our spiritual enemy uses to keep us from running to Jesus after sinning:
 - Jesus feels nothing but anger and disappointment towards me.
 - I've committed the same sin too many times. I've exhausted His grace. He won't forgive me again for this same sin issue.
 - I can't go to Jesus for forgiveness **yet**. I need to agonize over my sin longer. I need to earn His forgiveness.

Read Luke 15:11–24.

- How does this parable deconstruct each of these lies?
- What is God's posture towards His children when they come to Him with repentant hearts?
- How does this truth give you hope in your sanctification journey?
- Our final point outlines the 3 “R's” of responding to spiritual failure: **Remember** (the love for Jesus you had at first), **Repent** (turn away from your sin and turn back towards Jesus), **Redo** (return to living a Christ-honoring life through the power of the Holy Spirit).
 - Share with your group what it was like for you when you first trusted in Jesus!
 - What are some ways that you can practice “remembering” the love for Jesus you had early on in your spiritual journey? How is it helpful to remember instances of God's past grace and forgiveness in our lives?
 - What are the biggest obstacles in your spiritual life for real repentance? How can you practically overcome those obstacles this week?

GO:

- When Jesus spiritually cleanses us from sin, He also calls us to spiritual service. There is no “cleansing” without a “calling.” What are the barriers in your life to spiritual service? How is Jesus calling you to sacrificially serve Him this week?