
SERMON NOTES May 9, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 21:15-25

A Loving Knife

Pastor Mike

I. The shame of _____

a. The danger of _____ and _____

Pride makes us unaware of our _____

b. The humiliation of _____

c. The corrosive impact of _____

II. The painful nature of Jesus' _____

a. The love of _____ truth

b. Exposing our _____ to heal the _____

c. Revealing our _____ to bring us to _____

Key question;

III. Forgiveness, _____, and _____

How does our failure _____ us to be _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In John 13 Peter bragged that he would lay down his life for Jesus, and in Matthew's account (Matthew 26) Peter told Jesus that even if all the other disciples failed Jesus, he never would.
 - a. Why do you think Peter made this bold claim? What was his motivation in doing so?
 - b. Have you ever made a promise to God or a bold claim regarding your love and/or commitment? If so, what was your motivation in doing so? What was the result of your promise and/or claim?
2. All four Gospels tell us that after Peter's bold claim of how he would never fail Jesus, Jesus responded by telling Peter that he would deny Jesus thrice that very night. Why did Jesus give Peter this prophecy? How was this an expression of Jesus' love?
3. Luke 22:60-61 tells us that immediately after Peter denied Jesus the third time, Jesus turned and looked straight at Peter.
 - a. What emotions do you think Peter felt at that moment?
 - b. What do you think Peter expected to see in Jesus' eyes? What emotions do you think were actually in Jesus' eyes as he looked at Peter? Explain your answer.
 - c. Has there been a time in your life that you feel that you've failed God in a significant way? What do you think that God felt about you at that time? How did you respond to God in that time?
4. After his failure, Peter felt great shame and wanted to hide his shame from Jesus. However, Jesus didn't let Peter hide, but instead asked painful questions that reminded Peter of his failure.
 - a. Why did Jesus do this?
 - b. In exposing Peter's failure and shame, did Jesus act in a loving or unloving way toward Peter? Explain your answer.
 - c. Why is it that we often get angry when a person points out a sin in our lives? Would the loving thing be to cover it up and/or to ignore it? Explain your answer.
5. In his message Pastor Mike said that when Jesus confronted Peter regarding his denial, Jesus pointed out not only Peter's failure in his behavior, but also his error in his belief about his relationship with God. What did Pastor Mike mean by this? What was Peter's error, and what did Jesus teach him through their interaction.
6. What was Jesus trying to teach Peter through their interaction in John 21:15-19? What principles can you apply to your life from this passage?
7. Jesus asked Peter three times, "do you love me," clearly reminding Peter of his three denials, but then after each of Peter's answers, Jesus told him "feed my sheep," suggesting that Peter's failure and restoration somehow made him more qualified to become the primary leader and pastor of the early church.
 - a. How did Peter's great failure somehow qualify him to be used by God?
 - b. What are the failures in your life that you are tempted to hide, and that you feel disqualify you to serve God? How can God's grace not only forgive, but also redeem that failure?