

July 20-July 23, 2017

People of the Second Chance: Free to Fail



For further reflection personally, with a friend or with your group.

GETTING STARTED

In the kingdom of heaven, we are free to fail. We all experience failure at one point or another, but it's through that failure that we see the redemptive power of Jesus. Failures allow us the opportunity to discover who we are becoming.

Most of us keep quiet about our failures, ashamed and afraid that people would look at us differently. Jesus restores anyOne and everyOne who comes to him looking for hope and redemption from their failures. When we fail, we have the ability to learn, grow, and fulfill the potential that God has put within us.

Peter, one of the closest friends and disciples to Jesus, failed beyond what we would expect anyone to be redeemed from. He denied Jesus 3 times, claiming he didn't know his close friend in his final hours, but Jesus gave him a second chance. Peter became one of the most instrumental people in the start of the church, he spoke the first message to believers. Jesus put Peter, who originally denied him, as the center of his plan which eventually would lead to more than 2 billion people becoming followers of Jesus. Jesus is ready to use us the way he used Peter. We are people of the second chance. God restores, God reinstates, and God loves you. Your past doesn't disqualify you from His plan, it shapes you to become ready for it.

We are free from our past, our mistakes, and our shame. Take chances, be fearless, don't waste this second chance that God has given you.

LOOKING DEEPER

1. Who do you need to restore? Who do you need to forgive?
2. Are you hanging on to a single moment in the past?
3. How do you think God can turn your failures into something for His glory?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is not in the future tense—this is not, "hey one day it will happen". It's written in the present tense—the now—this day—this moment. The Bible says that everyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person - and that a new life has begun. Take hold of this new life, be courageous, and be the church of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. Luke 15:32

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 26:31; Matthew 26:35; Matthew 26:38; John 21:7-8, John 21:15, 1 Peter 4:8