

Connect Lesson April 24-25, 2022
Pastor Paul Daugherty
“God Still Wants You”

Message Recap

- I. The Bible is very clear that “We all sin and fall short of the glory of God.” This may seem discouraging, but it is meant to keep us in a state of humility and reliance on God. Knowing that none but Jesus can live a sinless life reminds us to constantly lean on and trust in Him. Peter was a fiery figure in the New Testament, full of passion and commitment to Jesus. Yet, in the most critical hour, he denied Jesus. He failed. Where does failure drive you? Does it drive you to your old life? Or does it drive you to His throne of grace where He forgives and empowers? Jesus taught Peter a powerful lesson after the Resurrection about how much He loves and wants us, even when we fail.

II.

2 Lies The Devil Uses

A. The Lie of Shame

When we hear guilt, we often associate it with shame. But guilt is different than shame. Guilt is the deep knowing that we have done something wrong, and often it leads to repentance. Guilt says, “I did something wrong”. Shame, on the other hand, is the lie that the enemy sneaks in with guilt. Shame says, “Who I am is wrong”. Shame leads to self-hatred and loss of identity. The way we can combat this is to know Jesus personally and know what God’s Word says about us.

B. The Lie of Fear

The lie of fear says that “I will not be accepted by God because of my mistakes” or “If I go to God, He will reject me because of my sin”. Both of these are rooted in a lack of the revelation of God’s love. The fear of rejection and punishment can only be replaced with God’s love. And we must first have faith to believe that God is who He says He is.

C. Combatting the Lies

In order to combat the lies of the enemy, we can look to one scripture for a roadmap. Ephesians 2:8 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”. God’s grace counteracts our shame, and faith in Jesus takes away the fear of rejection. A revelation of His grace and a willingness to trust Him by placing our faith in Jesus’ finished work are the keys to walking in a victorious life each day.

Read and Discuss

Read John 18:15-26

1. Have you ever felt shame or fear after making a mistake?
2. How did God help you overcome that shame or guilt?
3. What can we do to strengthen our spirit against the Devil's lies?

Read John 21:1-17

1. Why did Jesus ask Peter three times to feed His sheep?
2. Have you ever felt the pull toward your old life after making a mistake?

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

John 18:15-26

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter.

He replied, "I am not."

18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

23 "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter's Second and Third Denials

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?"

He denied it, saying, "I am not."

26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

John 21:1-17

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.[a] It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus[b]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.[c] 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."