

The Magic of Mercy

Part 3: When I've Failed

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WHAT CAUSES OUR FAILURES?

Three Things Peter Did Wrong

1. We overestimate _____

Then Peter boasted, "But, Lord, even if everyone else fails You, I will never deny You!"

Jesus replied, "Peter, the truth is that before this night is over, and before the rooster crows at dawn, you will deny even knowing Me three times."

Peter insisted, "But, Lord, I would never do that! Even if I have to die with You, I'll never deny knowing You!" (Matthew 26:32-35)

If you think, "I am strong! I can handle this. I'd never fall for that temptation," then be careful! For you could easily fall, too!" (1 Corinthians 10:12)

2. We fear _____

Peter followed at a distance to the courtyard of the high priest's palace. He went in and sat down with the guards to see what was going to happen to Jesus As Peter was sitting there in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said, "You were with Jesus of Galilee, weren't you?"

But standing there in front of everyone, Peter denied it. "I don't even know what you're talking about!" he said. (Matthew 26:58, 69-70)

It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you. But, if you trust the Lord, you will be safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

3. We speak _____

Then Peter went out to the entrance of the courtyard and there another woman saw him and said to those standing there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Peter denied it, and this time he swore an oath and said, "I don't even know that man!"

But after that, the men who had been standing there came over to Peter and said, "We know that you are one of them because your Galilean accent gives you away."

Peter lost his temper and started cursing and swearing. He shouted, "I don't know the man!" Immediately, he heard the rooster crow. (Matthew 26:71-74)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL?

Three Things Peter Did Right

1. Let yourself _____

Lesson: Don't pretend it didn't happen. To get past it, you've got to go through it.

When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows, you'll deny Me three times." Then Peter went outside and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:75)

Lesson: Turn your "triggers" into blessings.

2. Let your friends _____

Mary Magdalene went and found the disciples together, grieving and weeping. (Mark 16:10)

Lesson: When you go through a major failure, resist the urge to isolate yourself. You don't need to tell everybody, but you do need to tell a few people who love you.

Lesson: Share a problem, you cut it in half. Share a joy, you double it.

3. Let God _____

Cast all your cares upon the Lord, for He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Lesson: "Cast" doesn't mean fly fishing (cast a line, reel it back). To "cast" means to just drop it, let it go. It means you just drop it.

Lesson: In your mind, picture that failure melting away. Like it's just a big pile of dirty, old snow. Now it's just melting away, evaporating, disappearing, gone That's what God is doing right now with your sins, your failures.

Next Week
The Magic of Mercy
Part 4: God Can Use Anybody!