

Jesus Saves

Small Group Questions | Week of 04/15/18

The Big Idea: Though Jesus has appeared to the disciples two times, Peter's epic failure hasn't been addressed (yet). It will be with Jesus' third appearance. Everyone (especially Peter) must be wondering what Jesus will do with Peter. In our time together we look at Peter's likely struggle with shame, the way he tries to cope with it, and how Jesus comes to save him (and us) from it.

Getting Started - People, and especially children, do strange and funny things when they feel guilty. Name a bunch.

Digging Deeper (*Read John 21:1-12*)

1) Chapter 21 records the third appearance of Jesus to his disciples. Peter is waiting for "the talk" with Jesus about his denial.

a) Share a time when you did something wrong or hurt someone terribly and knew that you would have to give an account for it. What were some of the worst-case scenarios that played through your mind?

b) Peter is likely wrestling with worst-case scenarios. What might he be thinking those are?

2) There are times that we should feel shame (1 Cor.15:34; 6:5) and times we shouldn't (1 John 3:20). What is shame? Discuss the difference between good and bad shame.

3) Uncertain about his future and wrestling with guilt, Peter copes by going back to what he did before meeting Jesus: "I am going fishing."¹ Every person has familiar places they go to 'fix' their shame when they think God is unwilling or unable to. Give a list of bad and good places people go (instead of Jesus) to solve their shame. Talk about why those 'solutions' don't ultimately help.

4) Pastor Jake said that God uses our conscience like a fire alarm, but that we respond the wrong way when it goes off.

a) How so?

b) What do we mistakenly think God is telling us when our conscience-alarm is going off? Why?

5) In John 21 Jesus creates the same situation to restore Peter that he did when he first called him. Read Luke 5:1-11.

a) How does Peter respond differently to the same miracle in John 21?

b) *Before* Peter's epic failure, he wants to get away from Jesus because of the shame he feels. 3 years later just *after* his epic failure and with more shame, he wants to get as close to Jesus as fast as he can. Why do you think this reenactment changed how Peter thought of his shame?

c) What does this tell us about what the gospel means for our shame?

Making It Real

In the sermon, 3 practical strategies were suggested for overcoming unhealthy shame:

a) Know Your Places.

b) Get Your Alarm Right.

c) Practice Your Diving.

Discuss what those strategies mean.

¹ The striking parallel between Luke 5:1-11 (in which Jesus calls Peter from his career of fishing to follow him) and John 21:1-12 (in which Jesus again seems to call Peter again from fishing) suggests that Peter was considering going back to his former life.