

NS LIFE GROUPS

NorthStar Church

Defining Moments: Peter

Matthew 26:31-75

Apr. 14 & Apr. 15, 2018

Main Idea

Our failure does not define us!

Study

Have you ever had a failure in your life that made you feel like you had possibly “ruined everything”?

Has someone ever told you to see a certain failure as a learning experience? What did you learn from it?

Remember, our failures do not define us!

First let’s look at the 5 quick truths about Jesus that we learned during the sermon:

1. Your failure is never a surprise to Him.
2. Satan has to get permission from Jesus before he can ever touch your life.
3. Jesus prays for you through your failure.
4. Jesus already sees the end of your story.
5. Jesus will use your failure to build His Church.

How do these truths affect the way you think about the failures you may have experienced in your past and even the failures you will experience in your future? How do these truths give you hope in the midst of failure?

The passage we are going to look at covers the story of a failure of Peter. Remember that as one of Jesus’ 12 disciples Peter had a strong faith. Peter may have failed, but his faith never did. Look over the following points from the sermon and the corresponding scriptures and discuss them within your group.

3 mistakes that lead to failure:

1. We overestimate our personal strength. (Matt. 26:31-35)
2. We value the approval of others more than God. (Matt. 26:57-58, 69-70)
3. We speak impulsively. (Matt. 26:71-74)

Think back on some of the failures you’ve shared about. Did you see one or more these mistakes at play in those failures?

3 steps that lead to recovery:

1. We acknowledge our failure. (Matt. 26:75)
2. We seek community. (Mark 16, John 20)

3. We embrace God's mercy. (1 Peter 1:3, 5:7)

Why is each of these steps important in the recovery process?

Most often God builds His Church on our weaknesses and failures, not on our strengths and successes.

Pastor Scott's Reflection Questions:

1. How has God used failure in your life to grow you to be more like Jesus?
2. Will you respond to your failure like Judas or like Peter?
3. Where could you be 50 days from now if you lived in complete surrender and obedience to God?

Prayer

Pray for each other in your group and their various requests. Pray for each other that we'd remember that our failures don't define us.