

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Our failures don't **REMOVE** our purpose;
they **DISTRACT** us from it.

John 21:4-8 [NIV]

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.

Matthew 28:7, 10

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ...¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

What you've done doesn't have to **LIMIT** who you become.

John 21:9-17 [NIV]

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. 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."

Do you love Him more than **"THESE"**?

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Take a moment to recall a time you had to process the implications of a mistake/failure.

:: What did you do in that situation?

:: What did you learn through that journey?

:: Read/Re-read John 21.

:: What stands out to you as you reflect on this encounter?

:: Who do you most identify with in this narrative? Why?

:: What do find most interesting about what Jesus did/didn't do?

:: What do find most surprising about what Jesus did/didn't do?

:: What part of Peter's experience do you identify with most? Why?

:: Pastor Shawn described 3 different ways to view what Jesus asked in John 21:15.

:: Which perspective do you find most thought-provoking? Why?

:: How would you answer Jesus' question?

:: Identify 1 thing you can do this week to allow a failure be a lesson that moves you to more fully live into God's purpose, and then prayerfully take that next step.

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

- C.S. Lewis

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – April 24 & 25, 2021

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