

Week Three - *Healing Shame*
John 21:1-19

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Pastor Ted Haggard was a leading figure for American Christianity for many years. Then he was caught paying a male escort for sex and illegal drugs. What do you think would have been an appropriate consequence for his behavior?
2. Under what circumstances, if any, would you support Ted Haggard being allowed to be a pastor again?
3. Simon Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends and the leading apostle for the early Christian church. Read a conversation he had with Jesus in John 13:36-38. What did Jesus predict that Peter would do?
4. Now read John 18:25-27. How do you think Peter's sin compares to what Pastor Haggard did? Why?
5. John doesn't tell us how Peter reacted in this moment of betrayal, but the other gospel writers do. Go to Matthew 26:74-75. What was Peter's response to his failure?
6. What is a time of personal failure that you've experienced? How has it affected your ability to move forward in life?
7. As you conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer, confess any personal failures that you have not already turned over to God. Ask God to use your failings to shape you into a courageous champion for the gospel.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. What is your response when you feel overwhelmed? Do you shut down? Distract yourself? Lash out at others?
9. Read John 21:1-3. What was Peter's response to feeling overwhelmed by Jesus' death and his own feelings of shame?
10. Why do you think Peter went fishing? Some scholars think he'd given up on spreading the news of Jesus and went back to his old career. Some think he didn't know what else to do. Some think he and the disciples were simply hungry and needed some fish. Which do you think is most likely?
11. What was Peter supposed to be doing? (See John 20:19-23 for help with this question.)
12. Shame can keep us from doing the things we know we should be doing. What is an example of a time when shame prevented you from seeking help or restoring a relationship or doing the right thing?

13. Is there anything currently in your life that's keeping you from the commission that Christ gives to all His followers in John 20:21? What is it?

14. Close your FIFTEEN by praying that God would remove anything that hinders you from fulfilling His purpose in your life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. If someone asked you what God was doing in your life right now, how easy or difficult would it be for you to answer this question?

16. Sometimes it feels like God is far away and that He's not active in our lives. But now read what Jesus did in response to Peter's aimlessness. Read John 21:4-14. What did Jesus do for His disciples in this passage?

17. Of what moment in their lives was Jesus reminding them? (Hint: see Luke 5:1-11)

18. In that moment from Luke 5, what life-changing commission did Jesus give to Simon Peter?

19. Peter might have felt abandoned in his calling to spread the good news of Jesus. How did Jesus show that He would always be there to provide for His disciples' needs?

20. Think again about the first question from this study. How is God active in your life right now? How is He providing what you need to do the work He has called you to do?

21. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking GOD to help you see His work in your life every day.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

22. In our story for this week, Jesus has rescued Peter from aimlessness and reminded him that Jesus will always provide for him. Now let's see what happens next. Read John 21:15-19. What question does Jesus ask Peter after their breakfast together?

23. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the question three times?

24. How many times did Peter deny Jesus during the night of Jesus' trial? (Hint: See John 18:15-27 for this answer.)

25. Peter had done a shameful thing in denying Jesus three times. But what was Jesus' response in this section? What important thing did He ask Peter to do?
26. Most of us wouldn't have trusted Peter with something so important after he'd failed so dismally. But Jesus picked him right back up. He reminded Peter that the mission was more important than his shame. How did Peter respond to this trust from Jesus?
27. What shortcoming is potentially holding you back from "feeding Jesus' sheep"?
28. Use the rest of your FIFTEEN to pray and ask God to give you the confidence to spread His good news and love to all the world.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

29. Do you know who Steve Bartman is? Google his name and see what comes up. Read the Wikipedia article on his "incident" if you need the details. For what moment is he infamous?
30. Simon Peter faced a similar possibility. He could have been known forever as the guy who denied Jesus. Now read John 21:15-19. What new task did Jesus give Peter?
31. It's important to note that Jesus was not interested in labeling Peter for his past actions; instead, He gave him a new task. In verse 19, Jesus summed up His goal for Peter in two words. What are they?
32. Do you believe that we have this same command from Jesus? Why or why not?
33. When we try to share Jesus' love and commands, and help others to follow him, we will always face opposition. People will try to shame us or disqualify us from our duties. What things could be said about you, to diminish your credibility when you try to share your faith in Jesus?
34. What new thing has God called you? (See 1 John 3:1.) Look at 1 John 3:18-21. If we are God's children, what effect should guilt or shame have on our calling to love others?
35. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer, thanking God that He has made you His child, rescued you from shame and asked you to partner with Him for his mission on earth!