

Sometimes Apostle Peter Got everything RIGHT in his relationship with Jesus, Sometimes totally BLEW it! Look at this video...and then listen to what happened soon after...

VIDEO:

Read: Lk 22:54-62ff Denies knowing Jesus 3x
Sometimes Peter got it right...sometimes he totally blew it...

That is Just like the people in our lives, right?

- Discover your spouse has been hiding something: (CC bill, flirting relationship...or more)
- Parents let us down...make a mistake, don't support us as we feel they should
- Co-worker completely throws us under the bus at work...(Makes us look bad, or takes credit)
- Friend that you REALLY need...thought you could count on...reach out...not there for you!

How do you rebuild relationship when someone lets you down: Deeply disappoint you...Hurt you...want to just walk away (Not talking a TOXIC, Or ABUSIVE relationship when someone is intentionally, consistently taking advantage of you.

Dealing today with REAL relationship, where someone loves you, genuinely cares for you, but they have made a mistake.

How Do You Love People That Let You Down

Jesus models that for us in his relationship with Peter...Look with me at their relationship discover principles that will help us

1. Have Realistic Expectations.

John 13:37-38

"I will lay down my life for you!"

"Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows you will disown me three times."

- Jesus knew Peter...and while Peter's heart was right...sometimes his follow through left a lot to be desired
- Jesus enters this entire process KNOWING Peter is going to blow it! He knows Peter is human, and he will fail.
- We have be the same way with the people in our lives...we have to give them room to be human, make a mistake (not talking about being Eor, always walking around expecting the worst...but being realistic)

Illus: Premarital Counseling (Measures preparedness...Main focus is on expectations)

Measures "Idealistic Distortion" think Rose Colored Glasses

Favorite question and Answer... *"My fiancé could NEVER do ANYTHING that would cause me to love them less. 5!*

Applic: How do you love people that let you down?

Like Jesus, be realistic...give people in your life the room to be human (Even GOOD people do bad things sometimes)

2. Believe the Best Of Their Heart.

Luke 22:31-2

"Peter, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you Peter that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

- Peter, Satan wants you
- Peter, you will deny me 3x
- Peter..."WHEN YOU RETURN!!!"

Jesus Knew what was going to happen...and he also believed in Peter enough to say...When you turn back to me!

Yes Peter, I know you are going to blow it...but I know you... I TRUST YOUR HEART

I know your ACTIONS don't demonstrate your love for me at this point...but I believe in your heart...know you love

Applic: That is an incredibly important part of the process of restoration.

When you are hurting...when you have been let down...Trust the persons heart...

It doesn't feel like they love you...but they do. Give them the benefit of the doubt...trust their heart

Don't write them off because they let you down. Hurt you...betrayed you...Disappointed you

3. You Take the First Step Toward Restoration.

Mark 16:1-7

"But go, tell his disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

- This is the heart of what I want you to see this morning.
- When we have been hurt, betrayed, let down, we typically will wait for the other person to approach us. They owe us!
- Jesus didn't do that with Peter. Jesus took the first step! He reached out to Peter
- Global and Personal story of Easter
 - >Global: Salvation of all mankind! Single most important
 - Share Gospel: Sin Separates Jesus died in our place. Bible says the righteous for the unrighteous
 - >Personal: In the middle of the single most important event in ALL of human history
 - Jesus takes the time...care...to personally reach out to Peter and say...I still love you
 - Restoration and Redemption of Peter He is an EXAMPLE of how God views us all!

Applic: As we are Learning to Love Like Jesus, we understand...we have to go first!

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world God didn't wait for us to "get our lives in order" He sent Jesus BEFORE What must it have felt like to Peter when he got the message..."Jesus SPECIFICALLY said to tell you. Galilee"*

4. Forgive Them...And Clearly Communicate You Have Forgiven

John 21:1-17

- To Forgive is to Release from a Debt that is rightfully owed you.
Don't have to, not required to...But you choose to do that out of love
Jesus models that for us on the cross, right? *"Father forgive them...they don't even know what they are doing!"*
- But, not only is it important to forgive...you have to Communicate you have forgiven
It is important in the process of restoration and renewal that you clearly let the one that has hurt you know..Forgive
- Look at how Jesus did that with Peter!
>Disciples in Galilee...waiting for Jesus to meet them like He promised after the Resurrection
>Peter says...I'm going fishing...Loads up...goes out in the boat...Not catching a thing
>Some guy on the shore says..Hey...having any luck? Peter says...No...not so far
>Guy says...Throw your net on the other side of the boat...
PAUSE BUTTON: Remember 3 years earlier, when Peter and Jesus met the first time...
Peter fished all night...caught nothing...Jesus borrows his boat to preach...
Tells him...put out into deep water...Peter is like...done it all night ain't no fish...
But because you say so... (another entire sermon there)
SO MANY FISH NETS BEGAN TO BREAK...
Now...Part 2: Peter clues in...
- Then in verses 15-21 3X for 3 denials...Do you love me

Applic: Jesus is communicating to Peter in every way possible...

- Peter...it is ok. I still love you.
>Specifically ASKED for you
>Recreated the first time we met
>Drove my point home 3 denials...3 statements of love
Peter: We are good

5. Express Your Belief In Your Shared Future.

John 21:17b

"feed my sheep"

- Jesus said this for a reason:
- Peter, I know you have failed...I know you let me down...
- Now, YOU KNOW I have forgiven you...
- But not only that...I want you to know I trust you...I'm giving you the most important thing I have, My followers
- Take care of them...shepherd them...love them...I entrust them to your care.
- By doing that Jesus is saying, Peter, "I believe in YOU!"

Key: Sometimes when you get hurt...you withdraw...refuse to put yourself into that persons hands again

If it is a toxic or an abusive relationship..thats smart.

But if is a relationship that you want to rebuild...restore...you have to run the risk of being hurt again

Illus: Used to tell my daughters...If you keep people so far away from you that they can't hurt you...they can love you!

Have to let them in...knowing all along they may (probably will) slip up and hurt you again! That's ok
Peter wasn't perfect going forward...but along with Paul he was the human foundation of the church! Transformed

Applic: As we Learn to Love People the Way Jesus Loved People...we not only forgive, communicate that forgiveness

We also go out of our way to open the door of future shared relationship

That's what Jesus did with Peter...Peter...our relationship isn't over...I haven't written you off..IN fact...BETTER

INVITATION: That's what Easter is all about God is Loving Us..People that have Let Him Down! "For all have sinned"

Created us to be in relationship with Him...and from the Garden on we have been running away, ignoring...turning

So He sent His Son...the most valuable thing He had...to reopen the door of relationship

1. Had realistic expectations: From the moment of that first sin in the Garden...God was at work to bring us back
2. Believed the best of us: When Jesus died on the cross...there was no guarantee that ANYONE would ever respond
3. God took the first step...Bible says...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us
4. God forgave us...and He has communicated it. Bible...the Church...History...Full of God's redemptive message
5. He believes in our shared future...Those who know Him, love him...Jer Says, "I know the plans I have for you..."

This morning, there are really two ways to process this message

1. If there is someone in your life that has let you down...You know what to do. Go home...make a call, reach out...forgive...
2. Respond to God's reaching out to you

Perhaps you have never understood that Easter is God reaching personally to YOU, Like He did Peter

He wants to be in relationship with you... Doesn't matter how far you are...how often you may have let Him down

You may have lived 20, 30, 40, 50, 90 years with never a thought toward Him

Taking the life He gave you...and using it as your own, with never a thought about Him...

All you have to do is say, Just like Peter, Lord...Yes I love you. I know I have disappointed you, Sorry, forgive me, Walk with

Today, If you want to open the door of a relationship with God, Ask you to do two things: 1 Pray with me 2. Let me know

I'm going to pray...and if you feel like you have Let God Down...and you want to find the forgiveness Peter found...pray

Prayer:

God, I know I have let you down. I have done that both in the way I have lived my life without you, and in many of the things I have done that dishonor you...and myself...and the people in my life. Please forgive me for that. Like Peter, I want to say, I love you...I want you in my life. I want to listen to you...and walk with you day by day...and be in a real, meaningful relationship, with you as the central and most important part of my life.

Today I ask you to forgive me, and I invite you into my life. Show me the future we can have together, the one that you see...and I can't yet. I trust you to do what is right, and I commit ahead of time...whatever you show me...I will do.

Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for me on the cross...taking my place...and paying the price for my sin.

Amen

If you prayed that prayer with me, I want you to do something for me. Take one of the Connection cards, fill it out, give me your name and email or phone...and I'll send you some information on how to go forward from here. I promise you, I won't stalk you...but I do want you to get the things you need to help you in your new relationship with God.

You can put that card in any of the Riva Link Boxes...or if you want,

Also, if you want...I'll be back in the Connect room after the service...if you want to drop by and say hi...you can give it to me there.