

groups.

— Notes | April 27, 2025

Am I A Lost Cause?

“Why bother?” “What’s the point?” “It’s too late now.” So many people make these arguments because they think that if they mess up once, Jesus is done with them. Often we think if we can’t live a perfect life, Jesus is ready to walk away. The reality is that couldn’t be further from the truth. Jesus doesn’t need your perfection. He is already perfect. The only thing that Jesus desires is a relationship with you no matter your back story. He is waiting for you to simply say that you love Him and want to live a life surrendered, with Him by your side.

Key Scripture | John 21: 1-19

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas, also known as Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. 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. 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. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 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. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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.” 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.” 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. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Related Scriptures

_____ Matthew 4:19-20; 8:22; 19:21; Mark 1:17; 10:21; Luke 5:27; 9:59; 18:22; 18:28; John 8:12; 10:27; 12:26; 21:19; 21:22

Icebreakers:

_____ Q: What was your favorite game to play during recess when you were in school?

Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. If you are a Christian, then you are a Follower of the Way.

Q: When you hear “Follower of the Way”, how would you define that?

Q: When we think about following our leader, Jesus Christ, we tend to lean to either following rules or following for a relationship. Which way do you lean? Why?

Q: Is there anyone in your life that has impacted how you focus more on a relationship and less on rules?

II. When you fall short, Jesus doesn’t want you to feel shame.

Q: Refer to the Scripture above for this question. Peter went back to his old life after Christ died. He was a quiet quitter. He felt shame. Have you ever stopped pursuing something because of shame you felt?

Q: There is a difference between shame and conviction. Shame is past-focused and full of self pity. It causes you to feel alone & abandoned. Conviction is future focused and full of love. Conviction is driven by a need to feel known and loved. Do you believe conviction can help you to feel more known by God? Can you think of a time in your life where conviction helped you to feel more seen by God?

Q: Is it hardest to confess your sin to God, to yourself, or to others? Why?

III. The message of the cross is not “clean up”...its “come back”

Q: When Peter met Jesus on the beach, he asked him, “Do you love me?” Is it easy or hard for you to confess your love for Jesus? How do you do that?

Q: To Repent means that you are ready to change and do things Gods way. Is there anything in your life that you struggle doing “Gods way”.

Q: After we confess and repent, we are called to follow Jesus. When you follow Him, you are acknowledging that God has a purpose for your life. What would you say is a purpose that God has given you?

Get Practical

Jesus doesn’t want us to sit in shame and isolate ourselves from His love. He is waiting for us to simply confess that we love Him and want Him in our lives. If you feel nudged by the Holy Spirit to recommit yourself to become a follower of the way today, reach out to your campus pastor or small group leader who can help you navigate what that prayer might look like. If you are struggling with shame and need prayer, text prayer to 37748 and we would love to pray over you.