

AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE
Sunday April 8 2018 The Second Sunday of Eastertide
Sermon; Resurrection From your Failures
Text: Matthew 26:31-35 & 26: 69-75

Call to worship

Leader: God of joy, life, renewal and resurrection,

People: We come to you this day to celebrate the renewal of life in the joys of Easter.

Leader: May resurrection joy fill our days,

People: And may the resurrection of Jesus Christ inspire us for works of love peace and forgiveness.

Leader: May we be renewed in our Easter worship and even resurrected from our failures.

People Let us worship God

Prayer of confession

Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends, and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hour, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance. Redeeming God, teach us a stillness that leads to acts of kindness and clarity of vision. Shape in us a trust that leads to faithful witness and bold compassion. Form in us Your love that loosens our worry and eases our anger. Make us true disciples and resurrect us from all our failures. Amen.

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Text: Matthew 26:31-35 & 69-75

"When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, 'Before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times.' Then Peter went outside and WEPT BITTERLY." Matthew 26:75

WHAT CAUSES OUR PERSONAL FAILURES? 3 Things Peter Did Wrong

1. WE OVERESTIMATE OUR STRENGTH *Then Peter boasted, 'But Lord, even if everyone else fails you, I will NEVER deny you!'* Matthew 26:33

"If you think, 'I am strong! I can handle this. I'd never fall for that temptation,' then be careful! For you could easily fall too!" 1 Corinthians 10:12

2. WE FEAR THE DISAPPROVAL OF OTHERS

"Peter followed Jesus at a distance to the courtyard of the high priest's palace. . . ., a servant girl came up to him and said, 'You were with Jesus of Galilee, weren't you?' But standing there in front of everyone Peter denied it. 'I don't even know what you're talking about!' he said." Matthew 26:58, 69-70

"It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you'll be safe." Proverbs 29:25

3. WE SPEAK WITHOUT THINKING

But after a while, the men who had been standing there came over to Peter and said 'We KNOW that you are one of them because your Galilean accent gives you away.' Peter lost his temper and started cursing and swearing. He shouted 'I don't know the man!' Immediately he heard a rooster crow." Matthew 26:71-74

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL? 3 Things Peter Did Right

1. GRIEVE! *"When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, 'Before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times.' Then Peter went outside and WEPT BITTERLY."* Matthew 26:75

"The sacrifice God wants is a broken and contrite spirit, God will not reject a humble and repentant heart." Psalm 51:17

2. LET MY SMALL GROUP SUPPORT ME

(Easter morning) “Mary Magdalene went and found the disciples together, grieving and weeping.” Mark 16:10

“A week later the disciples were together again meeting in a home.” John 20:26

3. CAST MYSELF ON GOD’S MERCY

“Because of his great mercy God has given us a new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope . . .” 1 Peter 1:3

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH OUR FAILURES?

1. HE ISN’T SHOCKED *“God certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.” Psalm 103:14 (GW)*

2. HE PRAYS FOR US!

“Jesus is able to save us completely because (in heaven) he lives to intercede on our behalf. He is always talking to the Father, asking him to help us.” Hebrews 7:25

3. HE SHOWS US MERCY WHEN WE’RE DOWN *(Two weeks later)*

“When they got to shore they saw that Jesus was cooking fish and bread over a charcoal fire. Jesus said, ‘Bring some of the fish you just caught.’ So Peter went back aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was filled with a 153 large fish, and yet the net had not torn. John 21:1-14

Conclusion: Your Resurrection From Your Failure.

PRAYER: Resurrected Christ, resurrect us from all our failures, that our lives may please and serve You in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Four for The Road:

1. Have you every witnessed someone else’s failure?
2. How did you react to there failure?
3. How do your feel when you experience your own failure?
4. How does Jesus react to our failures?