

Introduction: Jesus, me, and my failure

1. What's the biggest mistake you've ever made? What's the greatest regret in your life?
2. Put another way, what "one thing" do you wish you could do over?
3. How do you picture God's attitude toward you when you think of this blemish in your past?
4. How have you chosen to deal with this failure in your life? (Hide it? Forget it? Make up for it? Learn from it? Try harder?)

A story to ponder:

John 8:1-11

A truth to remember:

¹⁷For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No one has ever seen God, **but the one and only Son**, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, **has made Him known**.

John 1:17-18 (NIV)

God will always greet you with _____ and _____.

- We can receive _____ and _____.
- All grace = _____ and _____.
- All truth = _____.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:12 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Moving from forgiveness to _____ and _____.

- David experienced the burden of sin. Psalm 32
- David experienced the grace of God. Psalm 51

Sexual sin is an _____.

- It's devastating.
- It impacts relationships.
- It cuts off the _____ and _____ of God in significant ways.

Why is it devastating?

⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NIV)

¹² “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 (NIV)

¹⁴ By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NIV)

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV)

A very practical way to come home

- Jesus is saying,
“Neither do I condemn you [grace], now go and sin no more [truth]. John 8:11
- When the prodigal son came to his senses he turned and went home.

See Luke 15:17-24

H **Honesty – It’s the painfully difficult first step**

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to those who call upon Him in truth.

Psalm 145:18 (NIV)

O **Openness – God fills clean vessels**

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light, as even He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. [keeps on continuously freeing and forgiving us].

1 John 1:6-7 (NASB)

M **Mentor – Get over the shame of someone knowing**

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called today, so that no one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13 (NASB)

E **Exit – Be as drastic as you need to be**

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you actually believe God forgives? What does it mean that He has removed our sin “as far as the east is from the west”?
2. In your response to others’ sin, do you have a tendency toward either all grace or all truth? Has this message equipped you for a better balance? Explain.
3. If you are willing to share, have you ever experienced restoration and freedom from sin? How did that happen?