



Punched – A Failure
Sermon Discussion Questions – September 18th 2022

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 26:33-35

...“Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” 34 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” 35 But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

Luke 22:61-62

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

John 21:2-3

Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “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.

John 21:7

. . . 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.

John 21:15

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you

Warm Up:

When school starts back up it seems our schedules are a bit more consistent and fuller. Now that our schedules are back into this space after a little bit, what new rhythms have you found that are life-giving?

Just for fun, what have been some of your funniest failure moments in your life? (maybe a baking fail, an epic face plant etc.)

Discussion:

1. In our Punched series we have been talking about life experiences that seem to just punch in the mouth. We also have been looking at how God might want to use these moments to make us holy. Keith Drury says this, “Jesus Christ himself is the definition of holiness and its living example.”
How have you seen other people walk through moments of being punched and come out looking more like Jesus? What about you? What experiences have you had that seemed to punch you in mouth but have shaped you to look more like Jesus?
2. Pastor Tom said this about the regrets we carry, “we are so accustomed to carrying the bag, that we adjust in our lives to hide the fact we are carrying the bag.”
What may be some of the most common experiences that people carry in their regret bags? What things are in your regret bag? How have you tried hiding those things you are carrying?
3. Pastor Tom explained that hope is the cure for laying down our bag of failures and regrets. He continues to expand on the hope we have saying, “Christianity is a place for people who understand their own need, their own sinfulness. And so, the Church is to be place where we live together with mercy and grace.”
What does it look like to live in the reality of hope? How does community shape the hope we live into?
4. Read Matt. 26:33-35 & Luke 22:61-62. Peter like all of us knows regret, he was broken in this moment when Jesus looked eyes with him.
Have you experienced a moment like this? If so, what was that like? We know from Peter’s story that though he might have failed in this moment, Jesus forgives and redeems. Peter is still the rock on which His church is built. What might it look like to surrender our failures and regret to Jesus?
5. On our path to freedom, nothing unlocks more opportunity than the basic art of taking personal responsibility. No matter what has happened, either positive or negative, you get to decide what life looks like from here on out. Our Liberator asks us to bravely live the un-lived life within

and to stop believing the lie that we are damaged, done or dead. Three simple words give us chain-busting freedom over our pasts—“I.Own.It”- Mike Foster.

How often do you take ownership of your failures? How might taking ownership lead to freedom from regret of failures?

6. “Brokenness comes as a result of an individual owning, they have disappointed themselves. And as a result of that regret, you throw yourself on the altar of mercy and grace.”
Have you ever found yourself owning your failure and throw yourself to the altar to mercy and grace? How might God form us when we fall at his altar of mercy and grace?
7. Read John 21:2-3; 7. Peter in the midst of regret of his failure was still connected to his community.
In the midst of failure are you still connected to community? How might your community support you when you have failures and regrets? In Verse 7 we see Peter launch himself toward Jesus. How often do you run towards Jesus after failure?
8. D.T Niles describes Christianity as, “...One beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.” This quote is explaining our spiritual hunger and the hope that we can be feed, it sounds a lot like what God has invited us to do at ALIVE. “We want to reach spiritually hungry people and introduce them to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an active role in Christian community.”
Who have you reached recently to “tell another beggar where to find bread?”
9. Read 1`Peter 1:3-4.
What are you initial reactions from this truth? How does this truth give you hope despite your failures and regrets?

Next Steps:

Find sometime this week to meet and share a meal together, this could be during your small group time or another time. There is something intimate about sharing a meal in which we as people tend to share more than just the meal. We also tend to share about that which is going on in our lives. I encourage you to share boldly and vulnerably those failures and regrets you are carrying. Pray for those in your community/small group and move together towards God’s altar of mercy and grace.

1. What failures and regrets are you carrying in your bag?
2. What promises of hope do you need to keep close to lay down your bag?
3. How might your community help speak these truths and walk with you?
4. Who do you know that is spiritually hungry? How can you share the freedom God provides from our regrets and failures?