

HELP FROM THE RISEN LORD John 21:1–23 Inv. #9

Failure is Not Final If We Have Faith in God

Introduction:

- 1. Lisa and I Met and were married in California...**
 - a. And we took road trips to see friends in Washington and one of those trips...
 - b. we were driving back to CA on I-5 and as we were passing Grants Pass, I looked over
 - c. and saw this valley I never noticed before—this valley of Grants Pass
 - d. and it seemed so peaceful, like a Thomas Kinkade painting
 - e. And I remember just thinking out loud to Lisa—I wonder what it would be like to live here
 - 2. Well, Fast-Forward 25 years and last week I was driving on I-5 and looked at that same view of the valley and remembering that day**
 - a. But this time, 25 yrs Later, I was thinking How I've changed in those 25 yrs
 - 3. The Disciples are going to experience a similar turn of events, that take them back to where they started**
 - a. But this time—they have changed—they are transformed by spending 3 yrs with the Lord
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I. THE MIRACLE

A. 'WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING' (John 21:1–3)

- 1. The Disciples Had Been Through a Storm!**
 - a) The Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - b) Peter drew a sword to fight and cut off the ear of the HP servant
Then fled and denied Jesus Three Times
 - c) The Betrayal of their friend Judas
 - d) Jesus Put on trial all night and into the morning
 - e) Then He was Crucified and placed in a tomb
 - f) And Now Jesus Has Appeared to the Disciples Risen from the Dead
- 2. They Were to Meet in Galilee...**
 - a) The Disciples Grew up on that Lake — and Fishing Was Familiar to Them
 - b) They Were Probably Hungry—and Needed to try to Understand Everything...
 - c) So Peter Says: I'm Going Fishing!
- 3. But They Fish ALL NIGHT AND CATCH NOTHING!**
 - a) Fishing from a boat with heavy wet nets is Difficult!
 - b) Fishing ALL NIGHT is even more Difficult!
 - c) And to Do That Much Work and End Up Tired and Empty Handed is Frustrating!
- 4. Fishing Became Spiritually Symbolic for the Work of the Kingdom...**
 - a) Jesus told them, “follow me and I will make you fishers of men”
 - b) And This Kind of Spiritual Work Can't Be Done without the Lord's Direction or Help
 - c) As Jesus said: (John 15:5) “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

B. 'BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE' (John 21:4–6)

1. Remember This is Where Jesus Called Them to Follow Him!

- a) Now It's Full Circle! It was 3 yrs before, on the same lake—same thing happened!
- b) They Couldn't Catch Anything until Jesus told Peter to Cast Out...
- c) Peter had said, Lord, We have fished all night and caught nothing...
but because you ask I will...
- d) and they caught so many fish the nets were breaking and the boats were sinking!

2. And Now The Same Exact Thing Happens!

It Has Come Full Circle!

- a) They Are Back Where They Started—but Now They Are Changed!
- b) Their Lives Are TRANSFORMED for a New Life—and Higher Calling
- c) They Can't Go Back to Their Old Self—This is the Beginning of a New Calling

3. We Can't go Back to Our Old Lives...

- a) We Can't Go Back to Our Old Self-Centeredness
- b) And If We Do—We Will Fail
- c) We Too Are Called to a Higher Calling that May Seem Difficult
- d) But With Man this is Impossible—but with God All Things Are Possible

C. 'IT IS THE LORD!' (21:7–14)

1. Over and Over the Gospels Declare the Reality of the Resurrection...

Because They were Eyewitnesses!

- a) Jesus appeared to Mary at the Tomb, and the Other Women...
- b) Jesus appeared with the Two men on the Road to Emmaus
- c) With Disciples in locked room
- d) Then With Thomas
- e) And Then With over 500 people at once

2. When Jesus appeared to the Disciples in a closed room,

They were So Frightened that they thought they'd Seen a Spirit

- a) But when He appeared to them, He showed them His hands and Side (**Jn 20:20**)
- b) When He appeared to Thomas, He told Thomas to Feel the wounds in His hands and side (**John 20:27–28**)

- c) They first thought they had seen a spirit, rather than the Risen Lord...

But Notice How Jesus Reassures them (**Luke 24:36–39**)

- d) And now Jesus shares a meal with the disciples!

Jesus showing He Has Literally Raised from the Grave in a new and glorious body

3. Jesus' Resurrection Changes Everything!

- a) He is Alive Forevermore!

As Our Helper and Mediator and High Priest

- b) You Don't Have to Face Life Alone!

He is Always With Us—Even unto the end of the World!

- c) The same Power that Raised Jesus From the Dead

is the Same Power that Saves Us! (**Colossians 2:12–13**)

II. THE IMPLICATIONS

A. GOD WILL PROVIDE—WHEN WE SEEK HIM FIRST

1. **When Jesus first called the Disciples at the beginning of His ministry they were called to leave their occupation and family—how would they provide for them?**
 - a) The Went Out Fishing All Night and Caught Nothing...
 - b) But Jesus gave them a miraculous catch of fish
 - c) Showing that He would provide for those who follow Him
2. **And the Same Situation Happens Again!**
 - a) Jesus had called them to Mission Impossible — go into all the world and preach gospel!
 - b) Fishing Had Become Symbolic for Evangelism— Jesus told them from now on you will be fishers of men
 - c) But How? Not By I.Q or Slick Words—By the Strength and Authority of the Lord!
3. **When We Try to Do Things Our Own Way We Will Fail...
When We Do Things God's Way—He Provides**
 - a) Putting God First in Our Day... (not left-overs after the day is spent)
 - b) Putting God First in our Contribution... (not left-overs after the bills are spent)
 - c) Putting God First in our Home... (our marriage and our family)
 - d) Putting Gods First in our Worship... (not give God the left-overs)

B. FAILURE IS NOT FINAL—IF WE HAVE FAITH IN GOD

1. **Peter had failed numerous times**
 - a) He Failed trying to keep Jesus from the cross
 - b) He Failed in the Garden with the Sword
 - c) he Failed again by denying Jesus 3x — And Wept Bitterly
2. **But After the Resurrection Jesus went directly to those who had doubted and denied Him.**
 - a) He went to the Disciples who wouldn't believe Mary's testimony
 - b) He went to Thomas who would't believe unless he saw Jesus
 - c) And He Goes directly to Peter to talk things out.
3. **Jesus uses our failures as teachable moments... (John 21:15–17)**
 - a) Peter learned success through failure!
 - b) And We Can Learn from Our Failures as well
 - c) Failure is not final—if we have faith in God!

C. THE KEY MOTIVATION—IS LOVE

1. **Three Times Peter Denied Jesus...
—Three Times Jesus asked Peter if he loved him.**
 - a) Jesus was reaching out to Peter...

b) Getting Peter Back in Game / Back on Track / Back to Work

c) Showing Peter He is Forgiven and Has a Job to Do

2. The Key is the Motivation of Love (1 Corinthians 13:1–3)

a) Even if I Had the Most Eloquent Speech—w/o love I'm Annoying

b) Even if Had the Gift of Prophecy, Understood the Deep Mysteries and Knowledge

c) Had Faith to Move Mountains...but have n to love, I Am Nothing

d) Gave Everything I Had to the Poor and Gave My Body to Be Burned ...

3. Without Love it Profits Me Nothing

a) Faith, Hope, Love – but the Greatest of These is Love

b) Faith and Hope will be Fulfilled in Heaven — But Love Will Last For Eternity

4. Jesus said, If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

And Now We Understand and Keep Them—

Not Because We Are Forced to—But Because We Want to

Not Out of Guilt—but Out of Love

Because to Disobey the Lord is Not Just to Breaking the Law,
but Because it is Breaking our Fathers Heart

CONCLUSION:

1. We Have Come Full Circle in the Miracles of Jesus

a) From the First Miracle—Jesus Makes All Things New (Water into Wine)

b) Two the Last Miracle—He Makes Us New

c) The Creator of the Heavens and Earth—

—is Making a New Heavens and New Earth!

2. The Disciples Are Not The Same—they Are Transformed

And This is the Same Work Jesus is Working in Us!

(Philippians 1:6) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

3. EX: Flying Back to Medford, I had a connection at SeaTac Airport

And the Plane Flew Right Over Where I Grew Up

a) Everything Seemed So Big When I Was Young

b) My Worries and My Fears, My Hopes and dreams

c) All in that one place that seemed so small flying over 30 yrs later

You Have Been Through a lot as well—But God Brought You Through It!

Your Faith is Stronger Now

Your Hope More Alive Now

Your Love is More Real Now