

May 26/27, 2007

Study Questions

No Perfect People Series

Recalled

John 21:1-23

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt like you really let God down? How did that affect your Christian walk?

How did that affect your intimacy with God?

Was it hard to believe God might still want to use you in a significant way?

2. Why is it so hard to believe that God wants to use us in spite of our failures and shortcomings?

How is God's economy of grace different from the performance-driven economy of the culture in which we live?

3. Is it possible that our failures actually make us more useful to God? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Read John 21:1-14. Also read John 18:25-27. What has transpired in John 20 covered with the words, "After these things..."

2. Why do you think Peter and the others went back to fishing after they had twice seen the resurrected Jesus?

3. Compare the fishing story in John 21 with Luke 5:1-11. The text states Jesus "manifested" Himself in this story. What was Jesus manifesting about Himself?

Were the full nets just nets full of fish or was Jesus making a greater point?

4. Why does the John 21 text make such a point of Jesus inviting Peter and the others to breakfast around a charcoal fire?

What is the first step back after we have failed miserably?

5. What is Jesus trying to say to Peter in John 21:15-17? Compare John 14:18-25.

Often when we fail miserably we bench ourselves because we feel so unworthy or so inadequate to serve God. Perhaps sometimes we feel if we sulk enough we'll show God how truly sorry we are for our failures. Does that impress God? Are we ever worthy of our calling?

What is Jesus saying to Peter in his threefold repetition of his calling?

6. What is the significance of Jesus telling Peter how he will die?

Is Jesus calling Peter to a secondary role reserved for losers and failures?

7. Often our insecurities flow out of our comparisons with others. Why does the concept of grace demand that we let go of all comparisons and simply seek to be faithful to what God has called us to do?

Application

1. Is failure final? Are there any Christians who are benched because of their failures?

2. List three key principles you learned from this text?

3. What is the most significant lesson you've learned or been reminded of in the *No Perfect People Series*?