



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Surrender U Series, Lesson 48

Lesson Title: Jesus is Alive: He Offers Victory
Over Failure

Take Home Point: Give up feeling defeated—GET
JESUS' VICTORY

Warm-Up:

Imagine a wealthy man who mopes around, refusing to withdraw any of the multiple millions available to him. "I just don't feel like a millionaire," he says, "The last time I tried to withdraw money, I had to wait and when I got the money, it didn't really seem like much." Or imagine an army commander standing on the field of battle after the enemy has fled. "Oh, I know I can claim the victory," he says, "but I still feel like a loser. I know I'll just have to fight again, and then what? Will I win again? It's just too hard. I give up." What do you think of these anecdotes? Do they make any sense at all? Vast resources available, the victory already won, yet defeat and failure written all over the attitudes of these two people. But is that unlike the attitude of many Christians who live in defeat instead of the victory over sin and failure that Christ offers?

Read: Matthew 26:74-75; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 1:3

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Peter begin to weep after the rooster crowed?

Why can Jesus sympathize with our weaknesses?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Who attempts to condemn you?

Why do you think Peter forgot the words of Jesus until the rooster crowed?

Insight:

How true it is that our God is the God of second chances. And third, and fourth, and fifth, and on and on. Many people see the Old Testament as a book of judgment, and God's judgment does indeed show through. But look at the many times God gives opportunity to repent, to listen, to win in his strength in the Old and New Testaments: Noah, Moses, the Egyptians, the Israelites during their exodus to Canaan, Saul, David, Hezekiah, Elijah, the wife of the prophet Hosea, the population of Nineveh, Jonah, Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Pilate, Peter, Paul, and a host of others who were offered a second chance by the grace of God. And where did his grace get channeled most of all? At the cross, where Jesus shed his blood to give every soul a second chance to be freed from sin and death. And he provides us the power to start again no matter how often we fail or how big we think our failure is. So we stumble and fall. But we can always get up, and by his grace move forward. Not in our power, but in his. That's the present and eternal victory we have in Jesus.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What keeps you from being victorious in Jesus? What will you do about it?

How do you approach the throne of grace? With confidence? If not, why not?