

Unexpected: The Gospel of the Servant King Jesus Redeems Epic Failures

Brad McConaughey // February 16, 2020

Mark 14:27-31, 66-72 (Pages 827-828, 1008-1009, or 1019-1021)

Big Idea: There is life and usefulness after epic failures!

Epic – heroic or grand in scale or character, impressive, remarkable.

*“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 8:38-39***

1. We _____ have epic failures. (Mark 14)

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **Romans 3:23***

A. Some _____ their failures as epic. (Pride)

B. Some think their failures have rendered them _____ to Jesus.

2. We can experience _____ and _____ forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (John 21)

A. We must _____ our epic failures before God.

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9***

B. _____ Jesus' forgiveness, _____ it!

“This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:46-48

*“In him [Jesus] we have redemption, through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” **Ephesians 1:7-8***

“For the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”

Psalm 103:8-14

**3. Jesus is in the business of redeeming and _____ epic failures.
(Acts 1-5, 10-12)**

Read the Bible this year

Pastor Brad encouraged us to read the Bible in 2020. Here’s some help getting started. Each day this week read from the Old and New Testament. Or, if you prefer, read just from one testament. Enjoy!

- 1. Leviticus 13; Matthew 26**
- 2. Leviticus 14**
- 3. Leviticus 15-16**
- 4. Leviticus 17-18; Matthew 27**
- 5. Leviticus 19-20**
- 6. Leviticus 21-22; Matthew 28**
- 7. Leviticus 23-24**

Life Group Questions

1. Read **Mark 14:27-31**. How do we deny Jesus in our lives today? Do you have any personal examples?

How will Pastor Brad's message help you when you've "denied" Jesus in some way?

2. Read **Mark 14:29, 31**. How would you describe Peter's outlook when he was with Jesus and the other disciples?

Read **Mark 14:66-72**. How is this context different from **Mark 14:29-31**?

What was driving Peter at that moment?

Can you relate to Peter in both scenarios? Explain.

3. In **Mark 14:72** Peter broke down and wept. What do you think Peter was weeping about?

It has been said that your greatest strength is also your greatest weakness. How does **Proverbs 16:18** describe Peter's denial of Jesus? What is the lesson for you from Peter's boasting and weeping?

4. Read **Mark 14:27-31** and **Luke 22:31-32**. How did Jesus give a word of hope to His followers, even as He foretold their failure?

Knowing we all will fail Jesus at some level, what hope do you draw from these verses?

5. Read **John 21:15-17**. What do you see here in the way Jesus restored Peter that will help you when you need restoration?