



Compelled BY LOVE

Title: When a Failure Becomes a Champion

Date: May 29, 2022

WORSHIP: Sing one or two songs (either from You Tube, or someone leading worship). If you're in a public place, café or on video messaging, three to four people can share testimonies of answered prayers.
Q: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

WELCOME:
Intro: Most of us know what a failure Peter was during the time of the Lord's arrest, trial and crucifixion. He promised to go to prison with the Lord and even die for Him and yet he denied that he knew the Lord thrice. (Isn't this ironic, sometimes we look down on Peter's denial or betrayal of Jesus, but we easily forget the many times we denied, betrayed and disowned the Lord ourselves?)
Ice Breaker Questions:
Q: Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or someone close to you? How did you feel about this? What did you do after being betrayed?
Q: How would you feel about being betrayed twice, or three times?

Key Verses: John 21:7-19 NLT
Main Text: 15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love (Agape) me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love (phileo) you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. 16 Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love (Agape) me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love (phileo) you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. 17 A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. 18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others [c] will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me." John 21:15-19 NLT

Word & Discussion: Three things when a failure becomes a Champion!!
1. We may have failed God, but God will not stop working in our lives!
 Please read John 21:10-14
 In spite of Peter's miserable betrayal, Jesus had a good plan in mind for him. These verses showed how Jesus was paving the way for Him to restore Peter. He appeared by the shore, prepared breakfast and set up the atmosphere for them to have a heart to heart talk. Even after he denied Jesus three times, Jesus didn't give up on Peter. He presented him with a plan to serve others and make a difference.
Application: This passage shows us that we can never write anyone off, even ourselves, because God is a God of second chances. No matter how many times we fail, God has a great plan for each of our lives. Our past is not going to be our future as far as God was concerned.
Q: Was ever a time or situation in your life you felt God has given up on you?

Leader's Notes:
 1. Start and end on time.
 2. Facilitate discussions.
 3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
 4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
 5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

2. Jesus knows our limitations. Please read John 21:15-17
 In this passage, Jesus had this intimate conversation with Peter. This is a plain reminder to Peter that he denied Jesus three times, and now Jesus is giving him an opportunity to redeem his betrayal by triple confession of his love to Him. Jesus wanted Peter to know that he can fail forward into His almighty love. Twice, Jesus asked Peter if he loves Him. Jesus used the Greek word, **agape**, meaning **God's unconditional kind of love!**
 Peter, responded by saying he loves Jesus, but used the Greek word **phileo**, meaning **brotherly love**. The third time Jesus asked Peter and he used the Greek word **phileo** (instead of agape). This showed that he can only love Jesus the **phileo** way. Loving only when all is well or when the person is good and friendly to you.
Application: In order to fulfill God's call, Peter needed to know his limitations and ask God for His agape love to live and serve beyond his limitations. His call to serve God by serving others requires God's agape love.
Q: If our Lord Jesus Christ will ask you, "Do you love Me?" How will you answer Him, Agape or Phileo?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer
Q: How can we pray for you today?
Q: Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names?
 Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.

3. The moment we acknowledge our human reality, our weakness, God will give us a taste of His divinity, the power of His love. Please read John 21:18-19.
 The same thing with Peter, the moment he acknowledged his human reality, his weakness, God gave him a taste of His divinity, the power of His love.
 18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young (Spiritually weak), you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old (that you were assured of my , you will stretch out your hands, and others [c] will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."
 God spoke His reassuring love and revealed His power to enable Peter to even die for Him. Peter the mighty failure, eventually became a champion of faith.
Q: When was the last time you became open before God (or people) and admitted your weakness/es? How does it feel to be vulnerable?
Conclusion: The first time Peter and his companions experienced a miraculous catch of fish was before they became followers of Jesus. The second miraculous catch happened to provide a picture for Peter's restoration and launch into his call to be "fishers of men." The Lord's love and grace were needed to help Peter get back on his feet and propel him to a ministry of caring for God's flock. This time around, he encountered God's love during the lowest point of his life. The failure became a champion of faith, because "Love, God's love, never fails." I Cor.13:8a
Application: If we want to live a life compelled by the Love of God, why not come before the Lord in prayer and renew your love for Him... this time, with the agape kind of love!