

Introduction: Sometime during this week a random Youtube video popped in my recommended videos. It was about this Filipina named Rose who was going to be married to this American named Ed. The show was called 90-day fiancé, and the goal was for them to get married by the end if it all works out. I know this sounds pretty trashy but it was pretty interesting don't judge me!

So Rose was a young lady 23, has a child but no husband as the man left. She lives in a poor family in a province hours away from Manila. Ed, 54 was a successful photographer, architect, and designer found her through Facebook. They messaged each other and fell in love. What's shocking though is Ed's age being an age older than Roses' father. In fact Ed lies to Rose about his height and when they meet in person he's actually shorter than her. With this in mind there is a lot of skepticism that Rose was interested in Ed purely for financial reasons or whatever which becomes an issue later on.

So when they meet in person in the Philippines everything goes well they are very happy. There's a lot of funny moments with Ed trying to adjust to Philippine living standards compared to American such as the lack of AC in Roses' home and using a tabo to shower. Yet even with all that they are very happy together.

However, there are somethings that Ed does that makes the relationship and potential marriage very unlikely. First Ed lying about his height, two Ed insensitively gifting Rose mouthwash because of bad breath but not knowing that Rose had an ulcer, three distrusting Rose due to her not wanting to talk about her past and asking her to take an STD test, and four telling Rose that he does not want any more kids even after she told him many times even before he came to the Philippines that she wanted at least another child and that it was her dream. Each time Ed did these things Rose was understandably hurt and gave him another chance. And another chance. And another chance. Up until now after Ed told Rose he does not want any more kids, Rose breaks up with Ed stating all the wrongs he did and all the chances he gave him.

And many of us feel the same way when we fail God don't we? Just as Ed wondered after he kept hurting Rose again and again if Rose would give him another chance, we also wonder after we fail God time and time again, will we get another chance?

John 21:15-19

Jesus Gives You Second Chances When You Mess It Up (Again!)

But God is the God of even more of the second chance! He's the God of the 10th, 100th, trillionth chance! We know this!

So today we will look at what *kind* of chances God gives us when we fail.

The types of chances God gives you when you fail

1. A chance to reaffirm your love for God
2. A chance to glorify God (glorify God in whatever plan God has for you death, new opportunities, staying where you are etc.)
3. A chance to follow God

1. A chance to reaffirm your love for God (v.15-17)

v.15- **When they had finished breakfast** -Jesus' love and kindness is shown here by knowing that he had to first feed his disciples before having "the talk" with Peter!

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"- Some say that Jesus was asking if Peter loved him more than his trade of fishing which is because they would interpret the disciples going to fish as forsaking their ministry. However, there is no evidence that the disciples went fishing to "run away from Jesus". What is happening is that

Jesus told them to meet him in Galilee after he is resurrected and the disciples are being obedient to Jesus. You can see that in Mark 14:28. Their decision to go fishing was something they did as they waited for Jesus and to also feed themselves. Very important!

So these does not refer to fish but Jesus is asking Peter if his love is greater than the other disciples' love for Jesus. In other words "do you love me more than the other disciples do?" This is a "elephant in the room" type of conversation and Jesus is not afraid to address it. Peter had rejected Jesus three times by denying to know him when confronted by people who said that Peter was a companion of Jesus. Peter under pressure of the situation with Jesus being persecuted said that he never knew Jesus.

So Jesus gives Peter a chance, an opportunity to reaffirm his love for him.

Peter responds, "**Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.**" Instead of Peter being rash and brazen in the past where he would say that he would follow Jesus to death and then deny him right after, he affirms his love for Jesus but not on the basis on Peter's ability to love Jesus but rather God's supreme knowledge, omniscience that he loves Jesus.

We see here that Peter has been humbled greatly by the previous events. Peter was proud of his ability to follow Jesus and Jesus showed him that his ability to follow him was not on Peter's ability which is weak but on Jesus' ability to keep him! That's what Jesus did when he prayed that even though Satan would sift Peter and the disciples as wheat he prayed that his faith would not fail! God uses trials at times to humble us and to rely on him more rather than our own might.

So Jesus responds, "**Feed my lambs**". Lambs referring to disciples of Jesus. With this statement, Jesus restored Peter to ministry after his previous failure. Note that Jesus does not say you are a pastor to describe his duty but instead describes pastoral ministry about the work itself, feeding Jesus' lambs. Pastors are better known by their feeding of the flock rather than their title.

Jesus then asks Peter a second time. This is the exact same words as the previous instead the only difference is that Jesus says to Peter after Peter reaffirms his love for Jesus, "**Tend my sheep.** It is the same idea as "*feed my lambs*" to nourish them and to take care of them.

v.17- **He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time do you love me?"**

This is the third and final time Jesus asks Simon if Peter loves Jesus. A lot of people say that the Jesus formerly used the word Greek “agapeo” and switched over to “fileo” as Peter responded humbly that he loved Jesus using the Greek word “fileo” rather than agapeo as he was to humiliated to say that he loved Jesus with the supreme type of love “agapeo” so he used “fileo” a simpler form of the word love.

However there’s a problem with this. Both “fileo” and “agapeo” have been used to describe the Father’s love for Jesus and neither times is there a sense of an inferior level of level and a superior level of the Father’s love for Jesus. It is the same perfect love.

Not only that but “ginosko” and “oida” two Greek words that mean “to know” were both used by Peter and yet no one comments on that.

In language it is very common to use two synonymous words purely for the sake of stylistic variation which is what John is doing here. We have all been told in English class to not repeat the same words over and over again to describe something.

Not only that John writes why Peter was grieved it literally says, “**because he said to him the *third* time do you love me?**”

Peter was again humbled by this as he knows that Jesus is referring to Peter’s denial of Jesus three times. In addition, he was astounded by Jesus’ grace that even though he denied Jesus three times he gave him a chance to reaffirm his love for every time he failed!

Illustration: Sometimes people lose their jobs because of failure to complete a task. They wish they “could just have another chance.” But imagine an employer who *always* gives you another chance when you failed. Hard to imagine because that never happens does it? They always say, “I’ll give you one more chance...” Imagine your wife always gave you another chance to put the toilet seat down!

Peter responds, “**Lord you know everything; you know that I love you.**” Instead of responding, “Yes I love you!” Peter again denies his own ability to love and instead rests on Jesus’ knowledge of knowing *everything* including Peter’s love for him. The third and final time Peter reaffirms his love for Jesus but this time adds that Jesus knows “**everything**”. He was so

ashamed of his previous failure and astounded by Jesus' love and grace towards Peter that he completely denied his own ability and acknowledged everything on Jesus' ability.

Illustration: Jesus' graciousness to restore Peter is an encouragement to all of us who at some point in time felt ashamed to talk about Jesus. Many of us had felt a time amongst coworkers or friends mocking Jesus or our quote on quote "religiosity" and we go along and say "haha what are you talking about?" Note that is not true apostasy as true apostates, those who leave the faith, when they deny Jesus they mean it. As for Christians who have at time been ashamed of their faith always regret it after. This was the case with Peter as he wept when the rooster crowed showing his regret!

To put it into perspective, Peter had failed Jesus in the ultimate way. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart mind and soul. And Peter did the opposite of that when he denied Jesus.

Application: However, Jesus gave Peter another chance to love him. Even though Peter failed at keeping the most important command Jesus gave us, Jesus gives him another chance! Jesus' always gives believers a chance even when we fail him in the biggest way like Jesus! Don't be discouraged if you failed Jesus today, he loves you, and wants to give you another chance to reaffirm your love for him!

Transition: The second kind of chance God gives us when we fail is:

2. A chance to glorify God (v.18-19)

V.18- Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” v.19- (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.)

Jesus then contrasts Peter’s past, his youth, which consisted of freedom to what would be his future which would be martyrdom by crucifixion. John then explains that this was Jesus’ plan for Peter’s life to glorify God.

Illustration: Some people think, especially those coming from a Roman Catholic background that those in church ministry glorify God more than those in secular work. That is not true.

Scripture says in 1 Co 10:31,

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Nowhere does it say here or anywhere else in the bible that a particular type of role brings more glory to God than others. All it says, whatever you do, do to the glory of God!

For those of you know the story of Eric Liddell shown in Chariots of Fire, was an incredible Christian athlete who competed in the 1924 Olympics. His sister, who was also a believer told him that he was wasting his time running and that he should get in ministry immediately. But Eric replied, “Aye, Jenny, I know. But He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.” Eric knew that God made him to glorify him through his running.

Application: When you get back to work tomorrow, know that whatever work you are doing it can glorify God. Whether it's studying for finals, working from home on a computer, or working in a hospital, God gets glory when you work hard, and are honest, people start to notice and wonder what makes you so different? And even if that doesn't happen right away, God is still glorified because he always sees us!

But what if I sin I can't glorify God!

Wrong! Because if you sin God gets glory when you turn to him and repent! He gives you another chance to glorify him!

And that is the truth for believers. That even though we make so many mistakes Jesus still has plans for us to glorify him. Another chance for us to glorify God. For some it might be through martyrdom like Peter and many other disciples, others it might be a peaceful death like John. For some it's a new job opportunity and others it's to stay right where they are. Whatever it is, God will use you to glorify him, no matter how many times we fail!

GOSPEL:

On a side note, how will you glorify God when you die? You see everyone glorifies God when they die even non-believers. When believers die and are resurrected to be with God forever, God gets glory for his mercy, grace, and love for saving wretched sinners. When unbelievers die and are resurrected to eternal hell, God gets glory for being a righteous and just God punishing evil wicked criminals. If there was no punishment for evil people, for the mass murderers, for the child rapist, etc. where is the justice? Thankfully, God does both. He saves believers and judges unbelievers and gets glory from both. However the bible also says that we are all wicked sinners deserving punishment, so Christ came to save those who would believe in him, by paying for their sins with his own blood on the cross.

So I ask you today if you are not a believer in the Lord Jesus, to think how you want to glorify God in your death. Do you want to glorify his grace and love by being with him forever or do you want to magnify his justice by choosing eternal punishment? God extends his love and grace to you today and everyday, all you have to do is believe in Christ that he died for your sins, rose again, and that without him nothing even your good deeds can save you. You decide how you want to glorify God in your death!

Transition: The final kind of chance God gives us when fail is

3. A chance to follow God (v.19)

V.19- And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Finally after giving Peter a chance to reaffirm his love for him (3 times by the way), a chance to glorify Jesus in the future, Jesus finally gives Peter another chance follow him.

This is not only an authoritative command from the Lord Jesus. He commands this to us multiple times throughout scripture.

For example Jesus commands this in Matt 16:24

24Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Every believer is progressing, displaying fruit, in other words following Jesus. A Christian who is not following Jesus, who is instead following himself by disregarding the Bible, following the world, following Satan, is not a Christian.

But also note how gracious of a command this is. Peter has failed Jesus multiple times and yet he still commands him to follow him. By doing this Jesus not only reaffirms Peter to ministry as he did earlier, but also reaffirms that Peter is indeed a disciple, a Christian by commanding him to follow him.

In fact, this was the first thing Jesus ever said to Peter. In Matthew 4:18-22 it says,

18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." [b] 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

No doubt Peter would have remembered the many times Jesus called him to follow him but especially the first time Jesus called him which also was when Peter is fishing just like this current moment in John 21. A nostalgic and humbling moment for Peter.

As Jesus give us an authoritative command to follow him as king, we also remember the first time Jesus called us to follow him. Whether we were in college, a young child being taught about the Lord by parents, even old age, we see Jesus' incredible graciousness to not give up on us and give us chance after chance to follow him.

Illustration: On New Year's Day, 1929, Georgia Tech played the University of California in the Rose Bowl. A UC player named Roy Riegels, who was their center, recovered a fumble for California and in the confusion of evading some of the Georgia Tech tacklers, started running sixty-five yards... in the wrong direction. Just before Riegels was about to score for Georgia Tech one of his own teammates tackled him landing on the one-yard line.

As half-time came to an end everyone but Riegels got up to leave the locker room. He didn't budge. Reportedly he said to his coach, "Coach, I can't do it. I've ruined you, I've ruined myself, I've ruined the University of California. I couldn't face that crowd to save my life." To which the coach replied, "Roy, get up and go back out there — the game is only half over."

No matter how many times we fail even if we fail so hard we start running the complete opposite direction like Riegels it's not over. Jesus still gives us another chance to follow him!

Application: So remember when you have failed God this past week, today, tomorrow, this week, that he gives you another chance to follow him! Remember when Jesus first called you that it was not your own power that causes you to follow him but his gracious and loving call alone caused you to follow him just as he called the disciples while fishing! The disciples had nothing to do with it was all Jesus' grace. Remember that and be encouraged to get back up and continue following Jesus!

Conclusion: The show with Ed and Rose isn't actually over yet. There are still more episodes to go. In fact, in an interview with Ed, he reveals that he loves Rose and that he bought a bigger house seeming perhaps hinting that he did indeed get married with Rose. Won't really know until next episode, but that's beside the point!

No matter how many times you've failed this past week, and how many times you will fail this week, remember that Jesus always gives you another chance!