

Great is Thy Faithfulness - Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 3:23

Introduction:

- A. Lamentations 3:22-23 - During a time when Israel had failed and was in exile under foreign rule. Most people felt despaired and lost.
 - 1. He had forgotten what it felt like to be happy (**Lamentations 3:17-18**)
 - 2. Then he rejoices in the fact that God will never forsake or forget His people. God's faithfulness to His promises and His people gave him hope. (faithfulness is akin to AMEN - so be it, trustworthy). (**Lamentations 3:22-23; Hebrews 13:5-6**; cf. Dt. 31:6)
 - 3. Jeremiah saw that Israel's failures were not the end of them, but there was hope in that God would reduce them if they turned (**Jeremiah 8:4**)
 - 4. Indeed God's people were eventually rescued and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. Eventually, God sent His Son to deliver us from the enslavement of sin and gave us freedom and peace in the Son (John 3:16)
- B. Have you ever messed up totally that you felt there was no hope?
 - 1. Destroyed trust in a relationship
 - 2. Lost family to a divorce
 - 3. One of Satan's tactics is to make us feel defeated and without hope.
 - 4. Before we sin, while he is tempting us, the devil whispers, "You can get away with this." After we sin, he shouts, "You will never get away with this!" (**Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1-2**)
- C. Our failures do not have to define or defeat us.
- D. In the New Testament we read about a friend and confidant of Jesus who failed, failed miserably and it seemed like his failure would be his end.
 - I. Peter's friendship with Jesus
 - A. Chosen by Jesus Himself (Peter and Andrew fishing - **Matthew 4:18-19**)
 - B. One of His closest apostles (Matthew 17:1-2 <Mount Transfiguration>; Mark 5:37 <Jairus' daughter>; Matthew 26:37 <Gethsemane>)
 - C. Peter felt very close to Jesus, that he rebuked Him (**Matthew 16:21-23**)
 - II. Peter failed
 - A. Boasted about his loyalty to Jesus (Mark 14:26-31)
 - B. Publicly denied knowing Jesus (Mark 14:66-72)
 - C. Remembered Jesus words as their eyes locked (**Luke 22:61-62**)
 - III. Forgiven by Jesus
 - A. Appeared to him in private after resurrection (Luke 24:34; **1 Corinthians 15:5**)
 - B. Given opportunity to profess his love for Jesus (**John 21:15-17**)
 - C. Jesus had a plan for Peter, even after he had failed the Lord (Acts 2)
 - IV. What does Jesus' forgiveness mean for us?
 - A. Jesus never gives up on us (**Romans 3:23-24**)
 - B. Jesus is willing to forgive if we are willing to repent (**1 John 1:9**)
 - C. There is no humiliation when we return, only open arms (prodigal son Luke 15:11ff)

Conclusion:

- A. Just like Israel and Peter, we will fail the Lord, we will fail each others.
- B. What is important is how we will respond to our own failures.
- C. Repent and do what is right.
- D. Acts 2, the people realized they had failed God and betrayed the Lord Jesus by hanging Him on the cross. Their relationship was fixed through their obedience and repentance.