

**I Failed!  
Now  
What?**



1957  
Chevy  
Bel Air



# I Failed! Now What? - John 21:15-19

Like vehicles: can get wrecked and need  
restoration

People fail

Researchers say one of biggest fears is fear of  
failure

# I Failed! Now What? - John 21:15-19

Dream analysts tell us the most common dreams  
- anxiety dreams

Failure occurs our entire lives; we aren't perfect

"We all stumble in many things" (James 3:2)

# Peter

Denied the Lord three times in one night

Spiritual failure

His failure became the fulcrum of his victory

# Peter

Preached on Pentecost, thousands came forward

Opened the door of the gospel to Cornelius and  
the Gentiles

Superintended the spread of the gospel north  
into Antioch of Syria

Addressed the Council at Jerusalem

## Chuck Colson

"The real legacy of my life was my biggest failure—that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation—being sent to prison—was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one experience in which I could not glory for His glory."

# Public conversation

Peter denied the Lord over a fire; Jesus restores  
Peter over a fire

Conversation between Jesus and Peter alone  
Previously a private conversation



# Love Christ Supremely

"The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" (Luke 24:34)

"He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve"  
(1 Corinthians 15:5-6)

# Public conversation

Peter denied Jesus publicly

Jesus allows him to be restored publicly

# A Probing Question

"A Man's repentance must be as notorious as his sin."—Charles Spurgeon

Love Christ Supremely (vv. 15-17)

Self reliance, self sufficiency a problem

# Three times

Peter denied Jesus three times

The issue is how much you love the Lord

The Lord wants your heart above all else

# A Pressing Reaction

God wants us to make an honest evaluation of ourselves before Him

We aren't very good at honesty

Honesty should prevail around God's people

The church is not a museum for saints, it's a hospital for sinners

# A Promising Commission

Encouragement for a fallen leader

Births a supreme love for Christ

When you come to Christ, you surrender your  
life

Surrender your control

# A Promising Commission

Willing to be controlled by His will

"He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38)

May have to pay the ultimate price

# Follow Christ Continually (v. 19)

Peter denied Jesus in Jerusalem; Jesus restored him at the lake

Peter denied Jesus at night; Jesus restored Jesus during the day

Jesus was denied three times by Peter; Jesus is affirmed three times by Peter



# Follow Christ Continually (v. 19)

Jesus took a weak, failed apostle and made him  
one of his greatest ambassadors



**LORD, I SURRENDER  
MY LIFE TO YOU**

Lord, cleanse me of anything that breaks your heart.

