

Session 2

my life can Change

OPENING QUESTIONS

?Last week we focused on the fact that Jesus lived His earthly life as a servant. We also looked at His teachings that tell us that our purpose in life is to be servants as well. Did that lesson have any impact on how you lived out your week? If so, how?

Watch DVD episode.

DISCUSSION

1. What was your favorite part of this episode?
2. How do you see other people typically dealing with their regrets?

What have you learned from how they handled their remorse?
3. Bring to mind one of your regrets in life. You don't have to tell the group what it is, but how did you deal with it once you saw your mistake and felt the regret?
4. Kyle said the difference between remorse and repentance is that

mere remorse leads one to turn to self in an attempt to make up for the mistake while repentance leads one to turn to Jesus for mercy. How would you describe the phrase "turning to Jesus" to someone who didn't know what that meant?

5. Why don't people take their regrets to Jesus first rather than try to handle those regrets by themselves?
6. When you fail or fall short, where do you tend to turn first—to yourself to fix it or to Jesus to forgive it?

How does each route usually work out over time?

7. Do you have any regrets affecting your spirit these days? Is there anything you feel badly about? Maybe it's something having to do with your marriage and how you treat your spouse. Or maybe it's something having to do with your kids. Maybe it's something having to do with money or work. Have you made some bad decisions you now regret? Try to be specific. What are you currently regretting in life? Bring one regret to mind. If you have several, just choose one. As you think of this regret, consider where you are turning with the disappointment. Is it to self, to try to fix it? Are you trying to make up for this failure?

Imagine taking this regret to Jesus right now, as Peter did. Can you imagine saying to Him, "Lord, I am so sorry for this action"?

Now imagine His reaction to your words. What do you think it would be?

Is that reaction like His reaction to Peter's denial or it more harsh or unforgiving? If it is more harsh, why would Jesus be harder on you

than He was on Peter, who had spent seen Jesus' miracles and heard His teaching, yet denied Him?

Can you picture Jesus welcoming you? Can you hear Him say, "I don't condemn you"? Can you hear Him say, "Come, let's eat together and restore our fellowship"? Can you hear Him say, "I can make all things work for the good of those who love the Father and are called to His purpose"? Picture Him saying these things to you—not because you deserve to hear them, but because He is good, and His love endures forever.

Since it is so important to make sure we are taking our regrets to the right person, let's have a time of reflection before we end our gathering. If you would, bow your head and close your eyes while we have an open time of prayer, which simply means if you would like to pray, feel free to at any time. If you would like to say something to Jesus aloud, then by all means do so.

FOR REFLECTION

Read this passage from John 20:30-21:19 every day for a week, first asking Jesus to open your eyes to what He wants you to see. Circle, underline, or write in the margins whatever words, phrases, or thoughts stand out.

^{20:30} jesus did *many* other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³ 1 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. 2 1 : 1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee,

and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time

Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your

hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"