Dan McCandless

Pastor of Spiritual Development

Mark 16:6-7

(6) "Don't be alarmed," the angel said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen from the dead! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. (7) But go, tell His disciples and Peter, Jesus is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you."

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Peter's Unique Relationship to Jesus:

- -- Spent three years with Jesus
- -- Heard Jesus teach
- -- Saw Jesus heal and perform many miracles
- -- Part of the inner circle of the twelve
- -- Was Jesus' closest friend
- -- Leader and spokesperson for the disciples

Peter Witnessed Firsthand:

- -- Saw Roman Centurion's daughter raised to life
- -- Witnessed the Transfiguration
- -- Water turned into wine at wedding in Cana
- -- Feeding of the 5000
- -- Walking on water
- -- Quieted violent storm at His command
- -- Blind eyes seeing; deaf ears opened
- -- Leprosy cleansed
- -- Lazarus raised from the dead

Jesus continues seeking you – even when you have failed.

Jesus remains faithful – even when you have been unfaithful.

Jesus does not give up on you – even when you have given up on yourself.

Jesus remains committed to you – no matter what.

John 21:19-22

- 19 Jesus says to Peter "Follow me!"
- ²⁰ Peter turned and saw that John, another one of the disciples was following them.
- ²¹ When Peter saw John, he asked,
 - "Lord, what about him?"
- ²² Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?

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"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another – God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5)

- "Be clear minded and self-controlled so you can pray." (1 Peter 4:7)
- "When you do what is right and suffer for it, and patiently endure it, this finds favor with God" (1 Peter 2:20)
- "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that is within you" (1 Peter 3:15)
- "Be shepherds of God's flock under your care...be an example to the flock." (1 Peter 5:2-3)
- "...Christ left us an example by the way He lived and we are to "follow in His steps." (1 Peter 2:21)

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So the question is...

Which one of these people do you most identify with?

- -Mary Magdalene
- -Two on the road to Emmaus
- -Peter

God's Word for each of

For those of Us like Mary Magdalene:

With the Holy Spirit living inside us, we have an upgraded relationship in access, authority, and identity – **Believe it!**

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For those of us like the two travelers to Emmaus:

Jesus is closer than you think, right there beside you, working on your behalf. His promises are true.

Ask Him to open your eyes.

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For those of us like Peter:

Your failure is not final; you can be forgiven; you have a future.

Repent – change your thinking; believe and trust God.

Ask God to use you to bless others and build His Kingdom.