

The Easter Experience

Week 2: My life can change

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"?
 - No 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 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.

Reflection:

- Read this passage from John 20:30 to John 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.