



Love Will Lead You | Doug Wekenman | 4.12-13

### Weekly Study

## SHARE

**Red Rocks Austin!** We heard a powerful message from our lead pastor Doug during the fifth week of our *Holy Week* series. With Easter just a week away, this message reminds us of the impactful moments experienced by individuals who walked closely with Jesus.

In John 13 and 19, we encounter pivotal moments with Jesus and His disciples, highlighting the responses of Peter, Judas, and John to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. These moments challenge us to consider how our understanding and experience of God's love influence our response to failure, betrayal, and devotion.

This week, we explore how the disciples' different reactions to Jesus' final days provide insights into our personal walk with Christ. John rested confidently in Jesus' love, Peter tried to earn it, and Judas was driven by logic and disappointment.

- What really struck you about this message and how it related to your personal walk with Jesus?**

## GROW

**Read John 13:22-26**

These verses illustrate the tension among the disciples when Jesus announces His betrayal. Peter, guided by law, tries to identify the betrayer, while John, resting confidently in Jesus' love, leans close to Him. Peter's reaction highlights our natural inclination to take control in uncertain situations, whereas John's response demonstrates trust in the relational security he has with Jesus.

John's closeness to Jesus, even after failure, exemplifies resting in the righteousness and grace of Christ. His example teaches us that our relationship with Jesus is based on love and grace, not on our ability to consistently perform or achieve perfection.

- How often do you find yourself striving to earn God's approval rather than simply resting in His grace?**

- Reflect on moments when disappointment has affected your trust in God's plan. How might recognizing God's love help you overcome these feelings?**

Jesus predicted the disciples' failures and yet reassured them of His victory and enduring love. This reminds us that our failures are not final, nor do they define God's love for us.

- Why do we sometimes let our failures keep us from approaching God confidently?**
- What can we learn from John's example about experiencing grace and restoration?**

## MOVE

### Read John 21:9

Peter's denial and subsequent restoration by Jesus around a charcoal fire reveals how Jesus intentionally transformed Peter's memories of failure into powerful reminders of grace. Jesus' approach to Peter teaches us to confidently approach God's throne of grace despite our shortcomings. Jesus deliberately created this healing moment to help Peter reframe his past failures as opportunities to encounter deeper grace.

When we are guided by love, our failures become opportunities to experience God's grace profoundly. It reminds us that our mistakes and shortcomings do not disqualify us but rather position us to more deeply appreciate and rely on God's unwavering love and mercy.

- Reflecting on Peter's restoration, are there specific failures or memories you need to sit with Jesus in to be reminded of His true heart towards you rather than your assumption of what He thinks of you.**
- How can embracing God's unconditional love empower you to overcome lingering shame or regret?**

Consider Judas's story—his isolation and tragic end remind us of the importance of community and openness when facing failure or disappointment. Judas's response shows the destructive path of isolation and despair, emphasizing why it is crucial to remain connected with others who can encourage and support us through difficult times.

- In what areas of your life might you be isolating yourself, preventing a community from supporting you?**
- How could leaning into community and accountability help you respond differently to your struggles or failures?**

## P R A Y

Take a moment to identify and write down areas of your life where you struggle to accept God's unconditional love, perhaps due to failure, disappointment, or guilt. These can be situations, emotions, or specific memories you find difficult to surrender.

Close all together in a time of prayer, asking God to transform your experiences of failure into profound testimonies of His enduring grace and love.