

Hey everybody! Welcome to Christ Fellowship. If you are a guest with us for the first time today, I want to welcome you. We are so glad you are here. My name is Rick, by the way, and I serve as the lead pastor here. You caught us at a great time, because we are on this journey through the gospel of John, one of the most amazing books in all of God's word, and we believe that God likes to speak to us through His word. We are in a series in the gospel of John that we have entitled Soul Detox. We are talking about all of those things and all of those forces that are toxic to our soul, toxic to our life, and toxic to our relationships. With that in mind, I want to invite you to go ahead and open your Bibles, if you have one with you, to the gospel of John. If you do not have one, there is one on the seat in front of you, or if you would rather, you can just follow along with us on the screen, because all of the passages will come up there and you can track with us that way. By the way, I want to take a moment and welcome all of our campuses across Dade County, as well as those who may be joining us online. Now today, we've been in John, chapter two, in this series, but today I want to jump all the way to the end of the gospel of John; all the way to John, chapter 21. Next week we are going back to John two and three. We are going to go back and continue that journey. But today I want to look at something that happened in John, chapter twenty-one, that I think is so pertinent to the time of year it is. We are going to look at the toxin of our soul from John chapter twenty-one.

I want to set this up by sharing this with you. Back in the 1990's, I bought my first laptop computer. Now, I had already had computers, but this would be my first laptop. But folks, it was on a laptop, a lot like this one, that I learned a hard lesson about computers. Let me explain what I mean. To begin with, tucked inside the shell of each of our computers is what is called the hard drive. Now, if you don't know what the hard drive is, it is a network of thousands of electronic components that comprise the computer's brain. Get it: When the hard drive is sound, the computer has the capacity to access information, store information and retrieve information with great reliability. This is why we love, love, love, our computers. Now stay with me, because how many of you know what that is? (Showing a floppy disc.) If you are under thirty, you may not, so let me help you. This is what is called a floppy disc. It is not like the real floppy disc before, but it is still called a floppy disc. Back in the day, this is what information got stored on. What we would do a lot of times is we would take a disc like this and we would transfer the information from it into the hard drive of the computer. Remember that?

You just plug the disc into the brain of the computer and then you can download that information. It was always a very reliable function. It was always a very safe function, unless the disc was corrupted, because when the disc has corrupted information in it, it is toxic to any computer. Folks, if you download the corrupt information on that disc into the brain of your computer, the effect is decimating because it will crash the hard drive. Let me tell you, that is exactly what I did. Somebody gave me a disc that had corrupted information on it, and I plugged it into the computer and downloaded that corrupt information into the brain of my computer. When I did, I instantly knew something was wrong, because instantly the screen froze and it was like my computer was paralyzed. It was like it couldn't go forward. It was like it was debilitated. Folks, that corrupted information summarily crashed my hard drive and ruined the future of my computer. Needless to say, it was a bad day for me. But I did learn a valuable lesson. That was this: We cannot download corrupted information into the brain of our computers, because if you do that, it will blow the hard drive's mind, if you will, and ruin the computer's future.

Now, let me turn a corner and draw an analogy to all of that, because tucked inside the skull of each of our heads is a three pound, jelly like mound that looks like crinkled Play Doh. It is actually a network of over a hundred billion neurological circuits, and that mass in your head is called your brain. Get it: When our brain is sound, it too has the capacity to access information, store information and retrieve information with great reliability, which is why we love our brains. But folks, don't miss this, because just like the brain inside of this computer can get corrupted, just like that, that brain inside of your head can get corrupted. In fact, just like this disc, if it has corrupted information on it, is toxic to the brain inside this computer, just like that, listen, this is so important, just like that, corrupt thought patterns are toxic to your brain, to your mind, to your soul, and to your life.

With all that in mind, here is my proposition today. This is what I kind of want you to walk out the door with. There is no more corrupt thought pattern than regret that is ongoing. Regret that is relentless. Everybody say "regret" with me. Say it like you mean it. Folks, here is the point: If you constantly download regret, regret, regret into your mind, it can potentially blow your mind. It can potentially crash your mind. In fact, listen, if you download regret, regret, regret, regret, into your brain too much, it will eventually lead you to despair. It can eventually lead you to depression, dark depression, and it can even lead you to suicide. Example in point, listen to Matthew, chapter twenty seven, verse three. It will come up on the screen.

Matthew 27:3: "When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with regret, and went away and hanged himself." Folks, have no illusions. Regret is a powerful emotion; powerful enough to lead you to a dark, dark place in your mind. Now, I don't have to tell you that at this time of the year, Christmas, and especially as we head into a brand new year, 2015, this time of the year can be a time of great depression for a lot of folks. In fact, depression and suicide tend to escalate at this time of the year. You say, "Why?" Well, one reason is because for many people, they can't look forward to 2015 with all of its hopes, with all of its possibilities, with all of the expectations. They can't look forward to all of that because they are looking backward at 2014 with regret, and maybe all the way back to 2010. Who knows, maybe all the way back to 2000, or maybe back to 1995. Who knows? Let me tell you something: Here is a newflash, maybe for you. You need to know this. Regret can ruin 2015 before it even gets here.

You might be saying: "What do you mean by regret, and why is regret so toxic to our mind, to our future, to our lives?" Well, we are going to find out as we go back to this series entitled, Soul Detox. I want to give you two thoughts today. How many of you have your listening guide? Wave them in the air. I can't tell you what that does for me when I see those. It lets me know "Hey, I've got you. We are tapped in and we are going to follow God's word." I'm so grateful for that. Two thoughts about regret: This is kind of going to be a long outline on purpose, because I want you to be able to hang on to this for a long time. Two major thoughts: Here they are. Number one: Regret can corrupt your future. Regret can corrupt your future. With that in mind, let's pick up the narrative beginning in John 21:1. It says this:

"Afterward, - that is after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, - after that Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. It happened like this. (2) Simon Peter, Thomas, also known as Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together." Now, I

want you to watch what Peter says in verse three. Peter says this: "I'm going out to fish". Let me give you the backdrop of what is going on here. To begin with, Jesus has already been crucified. A lot of seemingly bad stuff has already happened back there. A lot of bad water has gone under the bridge, and folks, in view of all of that bad stuff back there, Peter says to the others, "You know what, I'm just going back to fishing." Now, on the surface, "I'm going out to fish" sounds insignificant. "I'm going back to fishing." It's like: "So what?" Well, the "so what" is this: Before Peter met Jesus, he was a fisherman, but after he met Jesus – You know when we meet Jesus it's like the continental divide of our life, isn't it. There is life before we met Him and there is life afterwards.

Before Peter met Christ, he was a fisherman. But after he met Christ, Christ called him to be the leader of a movement of God; a movement of God that would change the world as we know it; a movement of God that was going to revolutionize the world. This movement of God that Peter was going to lead was called the

ecclathea. It was called the church. Jesus said to Peter, "You are going to lead that movement, Peter." In fact, He said to Peter, He said, "You are going to be a rock, Peter. You are going to be my rock, because you are going to lay the foundation of this movement. God is going to use you to write Scripture, and you are going to be one of those apostles who will lay the foundation of the church. Peter, this is your destiny. Peter, this is your future." But folks, listen, something has happened now that has caused Peter to abandon his destiny that God has called him to and to go backward to being a fisherman.

Don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with being a fisherman by trade, unless you are supposed to be doing something else. Peter was supposed to be doing something else: Mainly, he was supposed to be the one who was going to lead this movement of God that was going to revolutionize the world; that was to change people's lives forever. That was his calling. That was his future. That was his destiny. So what is going on in Peter's brain? What is going on in Peter's mind that is causing him to abandon that calling, that destiny, and to go back fishing? What is going on in his head? I'll tell you what was going on in his head: Regret. Let me say it again: Regret is a powerful emotion, powerful enough to make you think that you have done something so bad in your life that your future is over; powerful enough to make you regret, powerful enough to make you think that you have done something back there so wrong that God can no longer use you, that God is done with you. That is how powerful regret is.

Now, I want to give you a definition of what regret is. Regret is sadness over past failures. Regret is sadness, grief, remorse over past failures. So let's back up a little bit and look at Peter's past failures. To do that you just need to back up three chapters. You are in John 21; back up to John 18. This is where Peter's failure goes down. Just so you will know this, the scene here is going to be the Garden of Gethsemane. As they come to a rest, Jesus and Peter; it goes downhill from there. So let's pick it up in verse 12. John 18:12: "Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish temple police arrested Jesus and tied him up." You know the scene. They come into the Garden of Gethsemane and arrest Him. Verse 13: "First they led him to Annas." Remember him from a couple weeks back.

Now, let me set the stage for this scene, just so you will know what is going on. To begin with, it is late at night, around midnight, and the Jewish temple police, the Pharisees temple police, come and arrest Jesus in the Garden. They tie Him up and they are going to lead Him away to stand trial before this guy named Annas, who was the high priest. Now, let me remind you, Annas hates Jesus' guts, doesn't he? Because Jesus hit him where it hurts. Jesus hit him in the pocketbook. Remember that from a few weeks back? So we are going to come back to John 21. We'll probably get there a year and a half from now, but I'm just going to give you what is going to happen. Here is what is going on. Here is what the temple police want to do. They want to arrest Jesus, which they have done in the middle of the night. They want to race horse this trial, this would be the religious trial. Then they are going to take Him to the governmental trial before Pilate, and what they want is, they want Jesus hanging on the cross before people even wake up in the morning, before it can be stopped. So that is what is going on.

They arrest Jesus. Watch verse 15: "Simon Peter and another disciple (That is John, by the way.) were following Jesus." Now get the picture: Jesus is arrested and Peter and John are sort of following this unfolding situation, as Jesus has been arrested and now they have taken Him inside this courtroom to begin this trial. So Jesus goes inside. Look at verse 16 with that in mind: "But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple (That is John.) the one known to the high priest - Apparently John had knowledge, some relationship with the high priest so he gets to go inside. Peter doesn't have that so he is standing outside. - "The one known by the high priest went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in.- John gets to go in and he realizes that Peter is standing outside, so he goes back to the door and he says to the girl who is watching the door, "Can you let Peter come in? and she says, "No problem. Take him on in." Watch what happens. Peter is coming in with John. He's going right by that door. Verse 17. "Then the slave girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter: "You aren't one of this man's disciples too are you?" Peter said, "I am not".

Stop right there, because you have got to ask yourself, "What the heck is happening?" This is Peter. This is Rocky! This is the Peter who said the night before, "If everybody denies you, not me. If everybody forsakes you, not me. Jesus, I will die for you if I have to." But all of a sudden, Peter just hasn't got his guard up. He is walking through the door and he gets sucker-punched by this girl as it were, and it startles him so bad that he just says, "I don't know him." But it gets worse. Listen to verse 25. Peter is back outside. "Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself and they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it again, and said, "I am not". Verse 26: One of the high priest's slaves said, 'Didn't I see you with him in the Garden? I saw you with him in the Garden. "Then Peter denied it again." Down goes Peter.

Get it: In a moment when Peter should have been there for Jesus - by the way, this is what regret sounds like. "You should have been there, but you were not." This is how regret rolls in. In a moment when Peter should have been there for Jesus, he wasn't. In that critical moment when Peter should have been willing to die for Jesus,- again regret says "You should have back there but you didn't." In the moment when Peter should have been willing to die, he was a coward. You see folks, it wasn't just Judas that let Jesus down that night. It was also Peter. In fact, Luke's gospel gives us more insight as to how comprehensive this failure was of Peter. Listen to Luke 22:"About an hour later another asserted: 'Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean. Verse 60: Peter replied, 'Man, I don't know what

you are talking about.: By the way, one of the other gospels says when Peter said that, he cussed when he said it. I mean he is reverting back, all the way back. He is cursing now. We don't know what came out of his mouth. "I don't know him. I don't even know what you are talking about.'

It gets even worse. This thing cascades down on Peter. Listen to verse 60 again. "Peter said, 'Man, I don't know what you are talking about. Just as Peter was speaking, the Lord, that is Jesus, turned and looks straight at him. Picture it: As the words of denial were coming out of his mouth Apparently Jesus was being led from one station to another. His hands would have been caught. The religious leaders have probably already beat Jesus' face to a mess, and as they are leading Him out, Jesus turns and He sees Peter just as Peter is cussing and saying "I don't know that blank, blank, blank, whatever was coming out of his mouth. Peter saw Jesus look at him. They made eye contact. Folks, can you imagine the instant regret? Have you ever been saying something bad about somebody and just as the words were coming out of your mouth, they walked up on you? That was Peter, and his regret was bitter. Verse 62: "And he - that is Peter - went out and wept bitterly." It is interesting. It is almost like Scripture just kindly draws a veil over this scene, and Peter just disappears. We don't see him during the crucifixion at all. Scripture just lets him quietly go.

Folks, here is what you need to know, and I need to know about regret. Regret can follow us like a dark shadow. In other words, the pain just won't go away. The sadness won't go away for what you did, and the reason it won't go away is because you have downloaded the information into the hard drive of your computer. You just play the failure over and over and over again. By the way, any failure can seize you with regret. This doesn't have to be sin. A failed relationship can make you feel like regret. A failed marriage can fill you with regret. A failed business adventure can fill you with regret. A failed investment can fill you with regret. A stupid decision can fill you with regret. A bad choice can fill you with regret. You know, just fill in the blank of your regret. But the point is this: All of those failures, the things that we did, get stored in our hard drives and we play them over and over again.

Let me tell you this about regrets. They come with speakers, and when you plug that disc in and start to play that failure, you start hearing the voices in your head, the regret voices. They sound like this: If you hadn't done that back there, your future would be better. Or maybe if you had done that back there, your future would be better today. Or regret sounds like this: You should have been a better parent, but you weren't. You failed your children. You failed that son. You failed your daughter. You failed your wife. You failed your husband. You failed your mom. You failed your dad. You keep listening to those voices over and over. Do you know what happens? You will just blame yourself, and you start to hate yourself for something that happened in your past.

You see, this is what regret does. Regret brings your past mistakes into the present. It looks like this. Imagine the projector of your life. You have your present, and you have the future. Here is what regret does. Regret takes a mistake that you made way back and brings it right up in your face today. Regret can reach all the way back to years ago, something you did back there, and pull it up to the present. Regret can go all the way back in your life, and you pull it right up into your face today. You see, here is the problem. The longer you live, the more regrets you probably are going to have. In fact, the only way not to have regrets is don't live very long. If you say you don't have very many regrets, just hang around.

Folks, here is the effect of all of this. Regret can corrupt your mind. Get it! This is what Peter was doing. This is where Peter was in his mind. In verse three he said, "I'm going out fishing." In other words, Peter had pulled this regret all the way to the present and he had replayed it over and over and over in his mind and he was playing it over and over: "Look how you failed Jesus. You should have been there but you were not. You should have stood up for Him, but you didn't. You should have been brave. You were a coward. He pulled that forward to the point in his mind until in his mind he thinks his future is over. "How could God use me after that?"

Here is what regret says in our mind. Regret will often say, "Your future is ruined." In other words, you did something so bad, that your future is done. Your destiny, whatever you thought that was going to be, is over. Who knows; maybe I am describing you. Maybe you came through those door drowning with regret, because in your mind, you got it in your head that you did something so bad back that your future is ruined. You've got it in your head that you did something so wrong back in the past that God could never use you. You're done! You've got that in your head. I've got to tell you, I can be the worst to do something like that. Sometimes I let regret fill my heart to flood stage, to the point that I feel like I'm drowning in regret. I can't breathe because of regret. So I want to throw out a challenge to all of us, to you, to me, and that challenge is this. Instead of allowing regret to drown us, I want to try to teach you, and myself, today to learn to leverage our regrets for our good. In fact, I want to teach you today to wield regret like a weapon to shape your future for the good.

Here is what we need to know. Regret can actually correct your future. In other words, regret doesn't have to corrupt your future. If we can learn to leverage our regret, if we can do this we can actually use our regrets to shape our future for the good. But here is what you need to know about regret. Regret can make us run, and it can either make you run from God or it can make you run to God. Judas ran from God. He ran from Jesus. In other words, instead of Judas going to Jesus after he had betrayed Him and saying, "Lord, I am so sorry. I am seized with regret to the point I am thinking about killing myself. I am so sorry." What Judas should have done folks, was get to the cross. He should have knelt in front of the cross where Jesus was dying. Even though Judas put Him there, he could have knelt down at that cross and said, "Lord, I am filled with regret. My heart is broken for what I have done." Folks, I know Jesus would have forgiven him. In fact, the Bible says "A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." He could have been forgiven had he gone to the cross. Instead, he extracted himself from God. He isolated himself from the people of God, from the other disciples, and he inexorably hanged himself.

Peter on the other hand ran to God. He ran to Jesus. Which I am convinced not only saved Peter's future, but also saved his life. I think he was just as regretful as Judas and would have gone the same route. I want you to watch how he runs to the Lord, and let's learn to do the same thing. Let's go back to John 21:1. "Afterward, Jesus appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way. Simon Peter, Thomas, also known as Didymus, and Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebadee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish", Simon Peter told them. Now, again, Peter is at a bad place in his head. He's got it in his mind that what he did back there was so bad that his future was over; that his destiny is over; that God can never want to use him again; that Jesus could never forgive him for what he did; that Jesus could never use him again. But look at verse four.

“Early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore.” Listen, it doesn’t matter what you have done. It doesn’t matter how bad you think you blew it. It doesn’t matter how bad the decision was; how bad that act was back there. It doesn’t matter how far away from God you may imagine in your head that you are. It doesn’t matter. In spite of all of that, Jesus is standing on the shore of your life, and He is calling out to you. Do you know what He is calling you. Look at verse five. “He called out to them.” By the way, it wasn’t just Peter who failed. Save John, they all split. So it says in verse five: “He called out to them, ‘Hey you jerks’ Is that what He said. “Hey, you traitors”. “Hey, you bunch of cowards.” Is that what He called them? He could have, but He didn’t. He said “Hey friends.” Can I tell you something. Jesus wasn’t mad at them. I tell you something else; He is not mad at you. He is mad about you. He is pursuing you, but He is not mad at you. They don’t even recognize Him. He says, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. (6) 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 saw, ‘It is the Lord’ he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. Wouldn’t you love to have been there to see that?

Peter doesn’t say, “Row this thing in as fast as you can.” Folks, I love that, because in spite of his failure, in spite of the fact that he may have felt ashamed, Peter wastes no time in closing the gap between himself and Jesus. In fact, he dove in and swam to Jesus and ran to Jesus. Listen, the only difference between Judas and Peter is the direction they ran. Judas let his regret make him run away from God. Folks, regret can make you do the same thing. Regret can make you think that what you did was so bad that He doesn’t even want to see you. Regret can make you think that what you did was so awful that your future is done. God doesn’t want to use you. He wants to use the good people. He would never want to use you. None of us are good. In spite of that, He uses all of us. Jesus said to him, He says, “Your future is not over. It is not done. So, here is what I am saying. No matter what you have done, don’t run away. Don’t let regret make you run away. I always say, don’t run from God. Run to God. Why? Look at verse 12. Watch this:

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come. Come and have breakfast’. By the way, to say “Hey guys, come on in, we are going to have breakfast”, there was no more intimate way of describing a friendship than to say ‘Let’s eat together, because in that culture, when you ate with someone, you didn’t eat to fill up your body. You ate just to be together. You ate to hang out. So Jesus was saying, “Hey guys, come on in. I’m going to cook breakfast. Let’s hang out together.” My point is this: No matter how you have messed up, if you will just come. He is calling you. If you will just come to Him, you will always be met with open arms, like this, every time. You will never be met with closed arms. You will always be met with arms open.

Folks, I want you to watch how Jesus moves to repair the collateral damage of Peter. Sometimes when we mess up this collateral damage, watch how Jesus puts this stuff back together. Verse 15. “When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter.” Stop right there, because remember, Jesus hadn’t said anything to Peter, nor had Peter said anything to him. The last time they really said anything was when Peter denied Him. So this is the first time they have had a conversation. So, can you imagine how awkward this felt? They are standing there and the food has been cooking. It is done and the smoke is wafting back and forth between the two of them. How awkward it probably felt for Jesus. And how

really awkward it felt to Peter? Peter was probably thinking, “He thinks I don’t even love him.” “When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Peter. ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ “Yes Lord, you know that I love you.” Again he said: ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me.’ He answered, ‘Yes Lord, you know that I love you.’ (17) The third time he said, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time ‘Do you love me?’ Then he said this: I love this part. He said, ‘Lord, you know all things. You know I love you.’

Folks, do you realize what Peter just did? He appealed to Jesus

omniscience. Omniscience is an attribute of God. God knows everything. So Peter says, you are God. That means you know everything, and that means Jesus you know my heart. You see, Peter is basically saying this: ‘What I did on the outside would look like I don’t love you. But you know that in spite of what I did, you know Jesus, you know my heart, you know that I love you. Child of God, let me give you some good news. God knows your heart, and what you may have done in the past, if other people may have looked at it and said, you don’t love Him, you don’t love Him because if you loved Him you wouldn’t have done that. They may have judged you for what you did. But Jesus knows your heart, and in spite of what you did, He knows and He loves you. Can I tell you something else? He also knows the circumstances around your failure. You are bathing yourself with regret and punching yourself with grief, but what you forget about, you forget about what you were going through back there when you blew it. You forget about the circumstances; you forget about the fear that you were going through.

You see, Peter probably had forgotten , the reason I denied was because I was scared to death. I got fearful. You see, Jesus knows Peter’s heart. He knew he got scared. He knows some of the bad decisions you made back there had complex circumstances. You had forgotten about that.. He knows your heart. He knows you love Him, and He loves you. By the way, I love it. He asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” You say, “Why three times?” Once for every time Peter denied Him. Peter got to say Yes for every time he said no. He got to say Lord I love you for every time he said “I don’t even know you.” What Jesus is basically teaching Peter here, trying to teach you and me, He is saying, “I don’t care if you blow it once. I don’t care if you blow it twice. I don’t care if you blow it three times. I don’t care if you blow it a thousand times. I can fix this thing, and I still have plans for your life, for your future.”

You see folks, here is what I want to teach you to do. I want you to make your default response when regret hits you, when you feel that angst and you are going, “I should have. I failed. I let them down.” When you feel that, I want your default response to be to run to God. Don’t run from Him. Run to His word, and start to play what His word has to say about you. Start to play what His word has to say about it. Do you know what His word has to say about you? His Word says, “He loves you.” His word says He knows your heart. His word says He still has a plan for your life. His word says you are not done. You are not ruined. You still have a future. Your best days are ahead of you. You need to plug into God’s word and listen to what He has to say. Remember what I said a few weeks ago. The voices I believe determine the destiny I achieve. The voices you listen to are going to determine your future. In fact, let’s say it together. The voices I believe determine the destiny I achieve. Remember that.

I want to give you one more thought and then we will close. Regret can give us resolve. There are two kinds of resolve. Resolve not to repeat the failure. Listen to verse 18: Jesus continues to talk to Peter. He says "Peter, truly, truly I say unto you. When you were younger you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will lead you where you don't want to go. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Do you know what Jesus was saying? He was saying, "Peter, you are going to get another chance to die for me, and the next time you are going to do it. Somebody is going to lead you where you don't want to go, Peter. You are not going to want to go there, to a cross, but you are going to go. You are not going to deny me this time. You are going to die for me and this is how you are going to pull it off. You are going to leverage the pain of your regret from the past and you are going to remember the pain of that regret, and you are going to say, "I don't want to feel that kind of regret anymore, so I am going to go through with this and I'm going to obey God. I'm going to leverage the pain of that regret. We know the story. Peter ended up dying for Christ, and not denying Him.

Listen, you and I can do the same thing. Instead of drowning in our regrets, we can leverage that regret to say, I'm not going to make that mistake any more. We can leverage that regret and say, "I'm not going to be that gullible anymore." I'm not going to be that naive any more. I'm not going to be that stupid any more. Our regrets can actually shape our future. Also regret can give us the resolve to move forward. (17) The third time he said, 'Son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because He asked him the third time 'Do you love me?' he said, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." That was his calling. Jesus was saying, "Peter, get back to work. Peter, go back to your future. Go back to your calling. Peter, continue to pursue your destiny. What you have done does not negate your future. I can overcome that. Get back to work. Look forward and embrace the future. Peter, your best days are still ahead of you."

You know, I believe God wants me to tell some of you that the same is true for you. No matter what you've done, God can recover you. No matter how bad it may have seemed. God is not finished with you. Get back to your future. Get back to your destiny. I believe God wants me to say directly to some of you that your best days are still ahead of you. You need to look forward. You need to start looking forward to 2015 with anticipation, with hopefulness, with expectation. You need to look forward to this year. And do you know what you need to do with all of those failures in the past, the things that make you regret? Do you know what you need to do? You need to let it go and move on for the destiny that God has for you.