

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

## April 17, 2016 – Failing Forward

Things we do where a high percentage of failure is normal...

Team Roping – less than 50% make it out of the first round; 18% make it past the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Only about 5% make it to the short round where you can WIN!

Baseball – Tony Gwynn, on August 9, 1999, had his 5,113<sup>rd</sup> strike out which set a major league record for the number of strike outs. In the same game, he got his 3,000<sup>th</sup> hit, which was also a record! Hitting 3 out of 10 makes you an All Star – 70% failure rate!

Marriage - about ½ end in divorce, yet people keep getting married!

Living the Christian life – one step forward and two steps back!

Peter was overly confident!

**Luke 22: 33 But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” 34 Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”**

Shortly thereafter, Jesus is arrested...

**Luke 22: 49 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords? The disciples asked Jesus first, Peter just started swinging!**

**50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.**

**54 The seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55 And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56 A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”**

**57 But he denied it, “Woman, I don't know him,” he said.**

***58 A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”***

***“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.***

***59 About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”***

***60 Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.*** Have you ever been caught doing something wrong? By someone you don’t want to disappoint? What if it was Jesus himself?

***Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62 And; he went outside and wept bitterly.***

After Jesus died ...

We do this, too...

Mark 16:7 Peter is going back to Galilee, 70 miles, back to what he used to do, “back to the old life” and he took 6 other disciples with him.

John 21 Jesus appeared to them, but they didn’t know it was him. They hadn’t caught any fish hanging their nets from the left side of the boat. He told them to move their nets to the right side, and they caught 153 fish. Jesus asked “Do you love me” three times...then Feed my sheep.

Lessons from this story

**Failure is unavoidable** – Peter had Jesus WITH him and he failed.

**Failing does not make you a failure**

|                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Albert Einstein - | Expelled from school for being slow      |
| Michael Jordon -  | Cut from his High School basketball team |
| Thomas Edison -   | 1000 failed light bulbs until 1 worked   |

**Acts 2** (300 yards from the home of Caiaphas, where he denied Jesus)

***36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”***

***37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”***

***38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the***

***gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”***

This is us today!

***40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.***

What can God do through you, if you don't give up. If you don't get bogged down in past failures...