

Life-changing Failure **John 18:15-15; 25-27**

Following Christ requires that BOTH our motives and our means be Christlike. When we attempt to accomplish Godly motives with _____ that do not look like Jesus, we fail as His followers.

Discussion 1. Peter resorted to worldly means to accomplish his noble cause. What are some “worldly means” you see Christians today employing to pursue their noble causes? What powers should they be employing instead?

Our failures as Christ’s followers do not begin with our bad outward behavior that looks like the rest of the world; they begin with our inner thoughts about using the world’s powers to take matters into our _____...for God.

Discussion 2. To you, what is the difference between simple personal responsibility and “taking matters into your own hands” independent of God? How do you know when you are crossing over from the former to the latter? Can you think of examples of each?

The slippery slope: even if we believe the noble cause justifies the initial, very small but shady decision, it often places us on a pathway to larger and more serious shady decisions with no apparent offramp. This is how _____.

Discussion 3. Think back to any of the circumstances you thought about in response to the previous discussion questions (above). Did those circumstances grow your faith in God? If so, how? If not, why not?

We have not truly understood nor confessed our sin until we have seen it from God’s perspective and understood it as a _____ to Him and to His authority in our life.

Discussion 4. What is the difference between recognizing the effect of your sin on another person and recognizing that sin as being against God? Can you give an example that might illustrate that distinction? Why is that distinction important?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?