

Overcoming Three Pitfalls of Pain

April 16, 2023

Main Passage: John 21:1-12a, 15-17 NIV

Hebrews 6:18b-19a, NLT – Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

1. The pitfall of _____

Luke 5:4-8,10b-11, NTE – When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deeper part, and let down your nets for a catch.” “Master,” replied Simon, “we were working hard all night and caught nothing at all. But if you say so, I’ll let down the nets.” When they did so, they caught such a huge number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. So they came, and filled both the boats, and they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees. “Go away,” he said. “Leave me, Lord! I’m a sinner!” ... “Don’t be afraid,” said Jesus to Simon. “From now on you’ll be catching people.” They brought the boats in to land. Then they abandoned everything and followed him.”

Ephesians 4:22-23, NLT – Throw off your old sinful nature... Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Psalms 40:1-2, NLT – I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

2. The pitfall of _____

1 John 3:16, NCV – This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters.

3. The pitfall of _____

Proverbs 11:25, NIV – A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Challenging Truth:

2 Corinthians 1:4, NLT – He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Reflection:

Who am I serving?

Which pain, which weakness am I allowing God to make a ministry of in my life?

Through that pain, who am I comforting as God has comforted me, according to 2 Corinthians 1:4?

Or, in keeping my pain back from God (by not acknowledging my pain, asking for help or surrendering it to him), am I also keeping myself from God's comfort?

Which tears am I allowing to be as doorways for others to meet and know the risen Jesus?