

5 Minutes for Faith – “Second Chances”

Rare is the winner who hits the lottery with the first ticket he’s ever purchased. Or the novelist who pens a best-seller on her initial attempt. Or the golfer who shoots an ace during the first-ever round played. Or ... the preacher who can generate a meaningful sermon for Sunday morning on his first draft of the week. I can personally assure you of that one!

In other words, there isn’t much in life that comes easy. Whatever it is for which we’re striving, we need to work at it, practice it, be persistent and keep on trying.

Of course, there are times when we regret that we don’t receive another opportunity; there are cases where we have one shot at it, and then it’s over. It becomes imperative to try to make sure we get it right that first time. And if we miss, we are disappointed and maybe even crushed by failure. In sports, it might involve missing that last-second shot, or it could be a poor test grade for those in school, or uttering the wrong words in a relationship, or perhaps even a very costly mistake in financial investments.

Yet, we are so blessed to be given second chances in our faith. Even the Apostle Paul, who persecuted Christians before his spiritual transformation, received a second chance because of the power of the Resurrection and the love of Jesus. It’s a reminder to many that virtually no one is beyond hope to be changed by the Lord.

And that is the beauty and joy of this approaching Easter season. Imagine Good Friday without Easter Sunday. We don’t have to! The sorrow of Christ’s death was turned into joy for the disciples through the Resurrection – which has turned into the ultimate second chance for us.

That is the “do-over” for us. It’s landing on the space that says, “Roll again.” It’s the “money-back guarantee” or the “clean slate.” It is all of these and more. When we might be worried that we’ve made a poor decision or a misstep, we can take solace with these words from Jesus in the Book of John: “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The Resurrection is God’s greatest story. It proves the reality of Jesus, and it is proof that we, too, by faith in Christ, have the most fantastic second chance imaginable. Let’s remember that priceless gift as we turn our focus to this coming Holy Week.

This is also a time to remind you – if you’re in our area during Holy Week – that we are planning meaningful worship opportunities at our church, and everyone is welcome.

- Palm Sunday Services, March 29: At 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service, April 2: At 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Service, April 3: At 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Service, April 5: At 10:00 a.m.

With blessings, Rev. Hyun-Suk Kim (“PK”), Wadsworth United Methodist Church Senior Pastor

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