



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Friday, March 24, 2023
Scripture: John 13:34-38
TITLE: Can God Still Use You?

If you sin, can God still use you? If you let God down, will He bless your ministry? I can tell you firsthand "yes." Absolutely God can and will use you. But don't take my word for it.

Let's go back to the Bible to see how God used a challenging person to grow the Kingdom of God.

John writes this in John 13:34-38.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times."

Immediately after Judas leaves to betray Jesus, Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you." You may think, "Jesus, this isn't a new commandment." And you'd be right in one sense. Because back in Deuteronomy and Leviticus, we are told to love God and people. Jesus affirmed this in Matthew 22. But what is new is the higher standard of loving. Because to love as Christ loves, it takes supernatural ability. Jesus loves not just His children but His enemies. Jesus said to love our enemies. And I hate to admit it, but He meant it!

So we are called to love people as Jesus loves them. This is only possible by the grace of God. It begins with loving the body of Christ and then those outside the faith. By this love, the world will see Christ in us. They will verify the authenticity of our faith.

And then, in verse 38, we are reminded of an incredible blunder by Peter. Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times."

And you know this will happen. The brash and bold Peter who declared he would lay down his life for Jesus and never deny Him would deny Him not once, not twice, but three times.

And was that the end of Peter and his ministry? Hardly. He would repent and recover. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

When God sees you, He doesn't see your failures or your past. He sees Christ in you. Yes, there are consequences. But those are to grow us, not hinder us.

So no matter what you've done, confess it to God. Ask God to use you however He sees best. God will use you where you are to bring glory to Him.

Today, let God use you, and when you do, you will win the day.