

Yeshua is merciful and kind to us even in our mess



*15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16*

## **God's Kindness in Our Failure**

Since last week's sermon by Martina I've been thinking a bit about Peter's fall and have been mindful of times when I too have failed and have experienced God's mercy and kindness.

On the night that Peter and the other disciples stumbled (Mt. 26:31) Yeshua

prayed for them and assured Peter that he would recover and be a restorer and encouragement to the others (Luke 21:31-32). Yeshua also affirmed His love for the disciples (15:9), spoke words of encouragement (14:2; 15:8), and called them His friends (15:15). This was done even when Yeshua knew that they would yet betray Him and leave Him.

Then in one of Yeshua's final appearances to the disciples before His ascension (John 21), He confirmed Peter's calling to leadership by a miraculous catch of 153 fish. What is notable is that Yeshua significantly blessed Peter before He ever had his reinstating conversation with him. God is good and merciful to us often even before we get things right with Him and others.

So if you find yourself having fallen and are stuck, know that Yeshua has not written you off even if others have done so. Yeshua (as evidenced with Peter) is merciful and kind even before we have our necessary, definitive interaction with Him. We all mess up and stumble in many ways (James 3:2). Yeshua is the sympathetic High Priest who knows our weakness and Who even so tells us to boldly come to Him to receive grace and mercy in our great need (see Hebrews 4:15-16). As we come to Him confidently in our brokenness, He promises to give us mercy and then empower us to move forward in a way that pleases and honors Him. It's as simple as coming to Him and saying, "Jesus help me!" I know from experience that this heartfelt prayer works. Yeshua longs to show us His mercy, to help us, and to restore us as He did with Peter.